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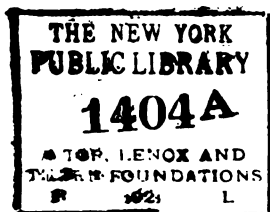
A JURNAL OF SPELLING REFORM AND UTHER
LANGUAGE TOPICS.

EDITED BY
FREDERIK A. FERNALD.

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ALFABET OF THE SPELLING REFORM ASSOCIATION.

Mr. O. C. Blackmer, of Chicago, has prepared an electro to exhibit and illustrate the alfabet of the Spelling Reform Association, and has kindly sent it to Our LANGUAGE. The alfabet was made at the request of an International Convention of Spelling Reformers held in connection with the World's Fair at Philadelphia in 1876. Prominent reformers from England and all sections of the United States were present, and many alfabetic schemes were urged with much elaboration. It became plain at last that no one could convince the rest. They agreed to refer all to the Philological Association. The Association's Committee consisted of Profs. W. D. Whitney and J. H. Trumbull of Yale, Prof. F. J. Child, of Harvard; Prof. F. A. March, of Lafayette, and Prof. S. S. Haldeman of the University of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Blackmer has made a concession to prejudice in using the circumflex with *i* and *ê*, and *a* longus with the uther vowels. The Committee recommended a uniform sign for the prolonged vowel sounds. It should be noticed, also, that Mr. Blackmer has selected for examples words of difficulty, in great part; not words which are unchanged, or little changed. He means to give instruction to persons wishing to use the alfabet, rather than to make a favorable impression upon chance readers. Thus he might have illustrated *i* without bringing in *queen* and *f* without *laugh*.

Scientific Alfabet,

prepared and promulgated by THE AMERICAN PHILOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, adopted and recommended by THE AMERICAN SPELLING REFORM ASSOCIATION, and used in the Standard Dictionary.

Short Vowels.

- i* tin, city, divide.
- tin, sit, divaid.
- e* pen, head, ferry.
- pen, hed, ferri.
- a* at, chasm, black.
- at, cazm, blac.
- æ* ask, chant, comma.
- ask, chant, cema.
- o* not, was, actor.
- not, wez, actor.
- o* obey, eulogy, propose.
- obê, yûloj, propôz.
- u* but, enough, nation.
- but, enuf, nêshun.
- u* full, book, could.
- ful, buk, cud.

Long Vowels.

- î* machine, eve, queen.
- mashî, iv, cwî.
- ê* eight, fate, play.
- êt, fêt, piê.
- â* far, bear, where.
- fâr, bâr, hwâr.
- û* arm, father, calm.
- arm, fâdher, cdm.
- ô* nor, fall, ought.
- nôr, fôl, ôt.
- ô* note, pour, token.
- nôt, pôr, tôkn.
- û* burr, worker, curl.
- bûr, wûrker, cûrl.
- û* rule, food, rude.
- rûl, fûd, rûd.

Diphthongs.

- ai* aisle, pine, eye, I.
- ail, pain, ai, ai.
- au* out, cow, bound.
- out, cau, baund.
- oi* oil, boy, avoid.
- oil, bel, avold.
- iu* few, mute, duration.
- flu, miut, diurêshun.

Consonants.

- p* pet, cup, pique.
- pet, cup, pic.
- t* tip, taught, react.
- tip, têt, rfact.
- ch* chest, much, match.
- chest, much, mach.
- c, k* catalogue, sceptic, king.
- catolog, skeptik, king.
- f* fat, laugh, physic.
- fat, lûf, fizic.
- th* thin, through, breath.
- thin, thrû, breth.
- s* so, his, serene.
- so, his, serî.
- sh* she, wished, ocean.
- shî, wisht, ôshan.
- b* box, bought, cub.
- bex, bêt, cub.
- d* definite, idiot, guard.
- defînit, îdiôt, gûrd.
- j* jaw, knowledge, gem.
- jê, nelej, jem.
- g* give, dog, programme.
- giv, deg, prôgram.
- v* vat, of, every.
- vat, ev, evri.
- dh* the, though, breathe.
- dhî, dhô, brîdh.
- z* zone, is, music.
- zôn, iz, miuzic.
- zh* composure, occasion.
- compôzhur, êckêzhun.
- h* he, hall, have.
- hî, hêl, hav.
- w* we, would, woman.
- wî, wud, wumân.
- l* live, league, noble.
- liv, lîg, nobl.
- r* rat, are, correct.
- rat, dr, correct.
- y* ye, yore, union.
- yt, yôr, yûnyun.
- m* me, came, spasm.
- mî, kêm, spazm.
- n* no reign, when.
- nô rê, hwen.
- ng* singer, tongue, young.
- sînger, tung, yung.

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Our Language.

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No. 1.

THE PLAN OF "OUR LANGUAGE."

THIS paper is designed to be a help for those who wish to increase their knowledge of the English language. It will serve as a channel for conveying information contributed by leading scholars in this field to those eager to receive it, and as a medium of communication through which students of English may obtain one another's aid in deciding questions of etymology, the use of words, spelling, pronunciation, etc. It is intended to assist in preserving all the elements of strength, flexibility, and beauty which the English tongue now possesses, and in bringing back, if may be, some that already have been lost. It will endeavor to furnish wise guidance in the formation or adoption of new words as occasion for them arises, and will seek to give order and force to all efforts towards removing blemishes from the written or spoken language. One feature of the English language which this journal will labor hard to improve is its spelling. English orthography is universally condemned by philologists as failing of the one purpose of orthography, which is to represent the sounds of speech, and as being, because of this defect, a constant stumbling-block in the way of etymological research. OUR LANGUAGE will strive to keep always in accord with the best authority in all respects, but in the matter of spelling the best authority is not the common usage. The spelling employed in this

paper, wherever it departs from what is customary, will be that which has the united endorsement of the ablest philologists, but where agreement has not yet been attained among those who are best acquainted with the subject, the conventional spelling will be adhered to. In order that OUR LANGUAGE may become what it purposes to be, it must have the co-operation of those whom it seeks to serve. All who recognize the value that a journal fulfilling the above stated aims would have are earnestly solicited to give this paper their support. Treat it as such a journal and it will speedily become such.

—I want to protest against applying the word *cremation* to the *burning of garbage*. Cremation means burning, but it carries with it the implication of respectful care, and using the word in connection with garbage is about as appropriate as it would be to speak of the entombment of sink-water in a cesspool. Editors and other persons who regard cremation as a hopeful solution of the problem of disposing of the dead should exert their influence against this bemeaning of the word.

—Among the most insidious snares of the English language is the participle. A sentence is often so written that the participle can only apply, for instance, to the subject of the sentence, when it is obviously intended to modify the object. In *The Illustrated American*, 29 March 1890, occurs this sentence; the emphasis is mine:—"Frederick Werne, in his 'Campaign in Taka,' gives an account of the killing of a large water-snake, which *after being partly skinned*, he left hanging on the front beam of the hut until morning."

THE RESTITUTION OF NATIVE ENGLISH.

BY JOHN EARLE, M.A.

[*Raoulstonian Professor of Anglo-Saxon in the University of Oxford.*]

It can hardly be necessary to insist on the fact that our time is characterized by a desire for the restitution of vernacular English. Indeed, to say this much, is to leave the matter understated. We may go so far as to say this, that amidst all the diversities of literary English of this century, the one predominant and universal character is the growing appetite for the original and native forms of the mother tongue.

I believe that Dr. Charles Mackay (memorable as the author of the song "Cheer, boys, cheer" justly represents the best educated opinion of the present day, when in a posthumous article in the January number (1890) of *The Nineteenth Century* entitled "The Ascertainment of English" he thus indites:—

"But the coinage of anglicized words of Latin origin is still too abundant, and either overload the language by their superfluity or enfeeble it by dilution and by the distinctions without differences."

I will not here, in this summary conclusion, stop to illustrate in detail;—I will merely recall one familiar fact which appears to me to be worth a hundred. It is a commonplace of our day to assume that Johnson's prose is excessively classical, and that it is too Latinized and magniloquent for our modern taste. Well, the fact is, that Johnson never used Latin words prodigally, he always used them with discrimination and knowledge, and in those of his writings which are best known to us now, it would take a good search to find one or two telling examples of what we mean by a "Johnsonian phrase." It must have sometimes been observed, how poor a show they are able to get together who try to exemplify Johnson's reputation for sesquipedalian words. Macaulay stamped "Johnsonese" with a character which all the world has believed in and adopted. I do not say that this general opinion is altogether groundless, but I say that the ground of it is very different from that which is generally supposed. The ground of it is not so much in Johnson's diction, as in our habits of thought and in the tendens of our time. It is so far in Johnson, as his writings stand with us for the type of classicism, because the classicists of the seventeenth century have fallen into oblivion and are so to speak unknown. The classic diction of Johnson bears the brunt of *contrast* with our modern ideal, which is after

all Johnsonian, with a difference. Ever since Johnson's time the taste for native English has been steadily progressing and the chasm is ever growing wider between us and the classicism even of Johnson, moderate and dignified as it is. When we join in the smile at Johnsonese, we consent and witness to the general revival of national affection towards the earlier life of the mother tongue.

Among the evidences of the force with which this movement has made itself felt, must be counted the strange jealousy which it has awakened in some branches of the educational interest. There is really no cause why it should be formidable to any one, but some people have taken alarm in the name of classical education. A few years ago when there seemed a chance for English literature at Oxford, there began a system of indoctrination through the periodical press, and as a sample of this teaching I extract the following, which is quoted with absolute exactness though without reference. It is a fair sample of the preposterous talk which has been evoked by the alarm of the restitution of English.

"It must not be forgotten that Latin underlies the whole fabric of English literature and the whole structure of English thought, inasmuch that its abandonment as a means of mental training would produce a breach of continuity, so to speak, between the past and the future of learning, and would effectually detach coming generations from the 'wisdom of our ancestors.'"

This idea that English literature rests upon a classical basis has been formulated, and industriously circulated as the watch-word of a pedantic faction, and hardly any organ of current literature has proved strong enough or vigilant enough to secure itself against the insidious entrance of this absurd indoctrination. For historical truth it is on a level with that favorite spermology of the Liberation Society, which seeks to diffuse the notion that the Church of England was founded by Act of Parliament in the reign of Henry the Eighth.

* * * * *

After a career of well nigh twelve hundred years, our prose is reverting to its earliest pattern. And this reflection is not merely sentimental—it has a practical bearing. The vague instinctive tendency to return to native sources contains in it a true indication, but it wants to be definitely guided; and the historical review of these chapters furnishes a clue to the direction and discipline which is requisite

For it shows us that in this long series of years there have been Epochs which claim a pre-eminent attention, moments in which the language has seemed to approach maturity and perfection, has bloomed out with conspicuous beauty, and has ripened a durable norm or pattern. Something of this kind may be observed in those other languages (they are very few) which, like ours, can show a long history. But the events of English history have been peculiarly favorable to great ranges of elevation and depression in language and literature. There are three conspicuous moments of highest maturity, marked by the attainment of new standards, which have been beacons for long ages after. These three moments are in the Tenth, the Fifteenth, and Eighteenth centuries, and it is the attainment of the language at those several dates that furnishes the chief norms or standards of English Prose.—*From the author's work on "English Prose: its Elements, History and Usage."*

To Spelling-Reformers.—One of the main objects of OUR LANGUAGE will be to advance the reform of English spelling, and it therefore asks for your support. There is need of an intelligently conducted journal to serve as a medium of communication among those who have this reform at heart. The publication of *Spelling*, the organ of the Spelling Reform Association, has been suspended since the end of 1887, its first year, and several phonetic journals that have started in the past fifteen years have ceased to appear, from causes that I think I see clearly enough to avoid. Several phonographic and educational journals have spelling-reform departments, and are doing good work, but in these papers the subject of spelling is overshadowed by other interests little related to it. OUR LANGUAGE undertakes, first, to give all the news of the spelling reform movement. It will print announcements and reports of all meetings of the S. R. A., it will record any action taken by Congress or by the several state legislatures on the subject of spelling, it will report the formation of societies, the giving of lectures, the publication of books and articles in aid of spelling reform, and will keep its readers informed as to the doings of reformers in England and the progress of similar movements in other countries. It will also furnish a medium for the discussion of those points on which diverse opinions are held by spelling reformers, with the hope of obtaining an agreement or at least an acceptable compromise on a complete system of phonetic

spelling, which is the most pressing need of the movement.

My plan has been heartily endorsed by Prof. March, Mr. Dewey, Prof. Scott and Mr. Sprague all of whom have promised their aid in carrying it out. With the kind permission of Mr. Dewey, I print his letter.

*University of the State of New York :
Regents' office, Albany N. Y., 16 Apr. '91*

MR. FRED. A. FERNALD, New York City.

DEAR SIR :—I am glad to know your decision to start a little monthly in the interests of rational spelling. Our great lack is just such a paper as you outline to jog the memory of the men who believe in better spelling but who forget their duties in the pressure of other matters. It will cost you much labor and no little money but will do very great good. I should be ashamed to do less than send you ten subscriptions for the first year. Please record me for that number and I will send individual addresses later. If every one who is anxious to help on spelling reform will take a little pains to secure subscribers and thus help you circulate a thousand copies of your paper each month it will help more than anything else. I say this knowing that your paper is to be different from the men's unbalanced sheets that have been published, some of which I fear have done more harm than good. On the plan outlined to me you will avoid the criticisms made on the others and accomplish five-fold more for the good cause.

Very truly yours,
MELVIL DEWEY.

—There are many words and expressions in the British variety of the English language that could be profitably adopted into the American variety, and *vice versa*. *The Chemical News* (London) not long ago spoke of experiments performed by the teacher "in face of" the pupils, where an American writer would have used the clumsier phrase "in the presence of." The word "lift," also would be a convenient substitute for our "elevator," and on the other hand we have ancient words that our British cousins brand as Americanisms, because they have lost this part of our common heritage which we have retained.

—Charley Chu, a New York laundryman, has this line of Celestial English on his hand-bill: "If any article not being proper done up, then we will do them over free by returning them."

SOUND-ENGLISH.

BY AUGUSTIN KNOFLACH.

[Teacher of Modern Languages, New York.]

THOUGH heartily in favor of eni reform that wil remove the most glaring inconsistencies in English spelling, I hav not been able to stop here, for it was and iz my intention to prepare easy methods by which foreigners may be introduced, *in a few weeks*, to a fair speaking knowledge of every-day English, and for this purpose I needed an absolutely phonetic sistem of spelling. I also wished that my sistem, besides serving for the instruction of foreigners, should in time find favor in the eyes of natives. For these reasons. I devised Sound-English, and published it in March, 1890. It was, however, soon aparent that some of its leading features would prevent its ever becoming popular, and I hav now modified or dispenst with these. Az revised the sistem forms the text of a "Sound-English Primer," just published, by means of which the child iz taught all the sounds of the English language in an easy and rational manner, and *in a few weeks* iz able to read litl stories speld in Sound-English. He iz then shown the same stories in the prezent orthography, with which hiz eyes become familiar in a surprisingly short time; after which he iz splendidli equipped for taking up eni ordinary First Reader and for taking the idiosyncrasies of prezent spelling at their true value. This haz been proved by a test made last summer with a boy six years old, using part of my primer in manuscript.

In Sound-English I giv every vowel sign its Latin sound. The length of a vowel iz indicated by doubling it, az *miil* (meal), *paam* (palm). For the *u* in *sun* I use the letter *o*, which often haz this value even in the prezent spelling, az in son, done, love, etc., and for the *a* in *wasp* I use *q* (*wqsp*), az there iz no longer

eni use for this character, its prezent value being expressed by *kw*. The reasons that led me to prefer *q* to a vowel sign bearing a diacritical mark, such az *ô*, were that diacritic marks are not found in all printing offices, or not in sufficient quantities, and that type-writers az a rule are not provided with letters bearing such marks. I retain the digraphs *sh, zh, th, dh, ch*, and *ng*. My sistem also indicates accent. Hwen the accent does not lie on the long silabl it iz marked by doubling a consonant, az *biginn* (begin). Hwenever the accent lies on the first silabl, I leave it unmarked, az in *histori*, unless it iz already indicated by a long (doubled) vowel, az in *aarteri* (artery), or unless another silabl contains a double vowel, in which case the consonant of the first silabl must be doubled to indicate the accent, az in *libbereet* (liberate).

The opening sentens in Macaulay's "History of England" iz now in Sound-English :

ai perpos tu rait dhi histori qv inggland frqm dhi akseeshon qv king jeemz dhi sekond daun tu e taim hwich iz widhinn dhi memori qv men stil living.

It will be observed that Sound-English iz devoid of capitals, but this iz not an essential feature; let those use them who desire to do so.

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—A "Leag for Short Spelling" has been organized, to be composed of those who will plej themselvz to spel *hav*, *giv*, and *liv* without the silent *e*, in their personal correspondence, and to help the Spelling Reform in other ways as opportunity offers. No membership fee iz required. Further information can be had from the secretary, Mrs. E. B. Burns, 24 Clinton Place, New York.

—C. W. Larison, M.D. of Ringoes, N. J., began in Jan. 1891 the publication of *The Jurnal of Helth*, a hygienic monthly printed in conformity with the rules for spelling adopted by the American and British Philological societies. Price \$1 a year.

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MISUSE OF REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS.

BY FREDERIK A. FERNALD.

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QUERIES.

Can any of your readers inform me whether anywhere on the continent there still exists a difference in the pronunciation of *know* and *no*; in other words, has initial *k* before *n* left any trace?

[Prof.] GEORGE HEMPL.
University of Mich., Ann Arbor.

I am making a list of words used in current literature of which the British spelling is different from the American. The most familiar examples are words ending in *or* (British *our*), then there is *shew* for *show*; who can supply others?—ED.

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MISUSE OF REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS.

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—Among the letters received by the publishers of a new paper and printed in the second number of the journal was one subscribing for it for a year beginning with the *second* number. Evidently the writer had received a copy of the first issue gratis, and, to change a word of "John Gilpin"—

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—The May number of OUR LANGUAGE will contain an explanation of the spelling that has been adopted for the paper, telling why certain words are speld phonetically and others are left unchanged; the editor's views as to the best way of advancing the Spelling Reform will be given also. I expect to have an article on "Special Features of the Century Dictionary" for the same number.

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It is not the office of a Dictionary like this to propose improvements in spelling, but whenever more than one form is sanctioned by good authorities either in America or England, both are given. The standard spelling of the mother-country of such words as *honour*, *civilize*, etc., is noted in The Century, though not given first place.

Special attention has been paid to the treatment of analogous words, and the Dictionary can be depended on to settle a question as to the use of a hyphen. Such forms as *back-door*, *backstairs*, and *back yard* can be found in close succession in a certain popular dictionary. Should we say *foretop-mast* or *fore-top mast* or *foretopmast*? Why *conferree*, as in a dictionary much used in American printing-offices, and not *employee*? The Century spells both without the double letter.



■ ONE OF THE VOLUMES.

A writer in the *Educational Journal* commends the pronunciation adopted by this Dictionary, and it will be welcome news to many who have been troubled over lists of "words generally mispronounced," that here due account is taken of the common, current pronunciation of good speakers.

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A full description of this great work is interesting reading of itself. The publishers have prepared such a description in the form of a large, handsomely illustrated pamphlet, containing also a number of full-size specimen pages of the Dictionary, list of editorial contributors, etc., a copy of which will be sent post-paid to any address upon receipt of five two-cent stamps. An eight-page circular, entitled "Why Teachers Need The Century Dictionary," will be sent free to anyone mentioning *OUR LANGUAGE*.

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VOL. 1.

MAY, 1891.

No. 2.

THE ENGLISH VOCABULARY.

BY JAMES A. H. MURRAY, LL.D., D.C.L.

THE vocabulary of a widely diffused and highly cultivated living language is not a fixed quantity circumscribed by definite limits. That vast aggregate of words and phrases which constitutes the vocabulary of English-speaking men presents, to the mind that endeavors to grasp it as a definite whole, the aspect of one of those nebulous masses familiar to the astronomer, in which a clear and unmistakable nucleus shades off on all sides, through zones of decreasing brightness, to a dim marginal film that seems to end nowhere, but to lose itself imperceptibly in the surrounding darkness. In its constitution it may be compared to one of those natural groups of the zoologist or botanist, wherein typical species forming the characteristic nucleus of the order, are linked on every side to other species, in which the typical character is less and less distinctly apparent, till it fades away in an outer fringe of aberrant forms, which merge imperceptibly in various surrounding orders, and whose own position is ambiguous and uncertain. For the convenience of classification, the naturalist may draw the line, which bounds a class or order, outside or inside of a particular form; but Nature has drawn it nowhere. So the English vocabulary contains a nucleus or central mass of men's thousand words whose 'Anglicity' is unquestioned; some of them only literary, some of them only colloquial,—they are the *common words* of the language. But they are linked on every side with other words, which are less and less entitled to this appellation, and which pertain ever more and

more distinctly, to the domain of local dialect, of the slang and cant of 'sets' and classes, of the peculiar technicalities of trades and processes, of the scientific terminology common to all civilized nations, of the actual languages of other lands and peoples. And there is absolutely no defining line in any direction: the circle of the English language has a well defined center but no discernible circumference. Yet practical utility has some bounds, and a dictionary has definite limits; the lexicographer must, like the naturalist, 'draw the line somewhere,' in each diverging direction. He must include all the "common words" of literature and conversation, and such of the scientific, technical, slang, dialectal, and foreign words as are passing into common use, and approach the position or standing of "common words," well knowing that the line which he draws will not satisfy all his critics. For to every man the domain of common words widens out in the direction of his own reading, research, business, provincial or foreign residents, and contracts in the direction with which he has no practical connection: no one man's English is *all* English. The lexicographer must be satisfied to exhibit the greater part of the vocabulary of *each* one, which will be immensely more than the whole vocabulary of *any* one.

In addition to, and behind, the common vocabulary, in all its diverging lines, lies an infinite number of *proper* or merely *denotative* names, outside the province of lexicography, yet touching it in thousands of points, at which these names, and still more the adjectives and verbs formed upon them, acquire more or less of connotative value. Here also limits more or less arbitrary must be assumed.

The language prezents yet another undefined frontier, hwen it iz viewed in relation to *time*. The living vocabulary iz no more permanent in its constitution than definit in its extent. It iz not to-day what it was a century ago, stil les what it wil be a century hens. Its constituent elements are in a state of slow but incessant dissolution and renovation. "Old words" are ever becoming obsolete and dying out: "new words" are continually pressing in. And the death of a word iz not an event of which the date can be redili determined. It iz a vanishing process, extending over a lengthened period, of which contemporaries never see the end. Our own words never become obsolete: it is always the words of our grandfathers that hav died with them. Even after we cease to use a word, the memory of it survives, and the word itself survives az a possibility; it iz only hwen no one iz left to whom its use iz stil possible, that the word iz wholly ded. Hens there are meni words of which it iz doubtful whether they are stil to be considered az part of the living language; they are alive to some speakers, and ded to others. And, on the other hand, there are meni claimants to admission into the recognized vocabulary (where some of them wil certainly one day be received), that are already current coin with some speakers and writers, and not yet "good English," or even English at all, to others.—*From the "General Explanations" of the "New Dictionary on Historical Principles."*

ADVANSMENT OF THE SPELLING REFORM.

It iz now fifteen years,sins the organization of the Spelling Reform Association, and the beginning of sistematic efforts in the United States for the reform of English spelling. There haz been also a Spelling Reform Society in England during most of this period. Doubtless meni persons do not see that the movement haz made eni substantial progress in this time, but I think that a fair measure of success may justly be claimed for it. Thousands of people hav been made familiar with the idea that a revision of English spelling iz possible. The general endorsement which the leading philologists of Europe and America hav givn to phonetic spelling haz rendered the movement safe from being characterized az a scheme of the eccentric and illiterate. A body of intelijent men and women—the active reformers—haz arisen, which iz equipped with knowledge of the phonetic structure of English, and arguments in favor of the reform,

and wil be available for an active campaign, hwenever the time iz ripe. But I believe that not nearly az much haz been done az might hav been with the resources available. One of the chief reasons for this imperfect success iz that the reformers are not agreed on a complete sistem of English spelling towards which all efforts may be directed. It iz just az it was with international copyright a few years ago. A member of a congressional committee sed then that the persons who came to Washington to ask for this measure were not agreed among themselvz az to what sort of a law they wanted, and so nothing could be done for them. Spelling reformers are nothing if not independent. We are independent of the authority of the dictionary, we are independent of the judgment of those scholars whom we like to parade az our leaders, and we are independent of each other. Probably one in every ten of us haz a phonetic scheme of hiz own, and iz more anxious to win adherents to that particular sistem than to do all he can for the cause. I do not believe that eni scheme yet proposed wil be adopted entire. Every scheme-structor must make up hiz mind to giv up some of hiz pet ideas, in order that the main prinsiplz of the reform may prevail. We must discuss the details of these various schemes among ourselves, and come to a decision on each particular point. We must hav the arguments that prevail in each case fully and explicitly stated, so that even those whose pet ideas are discarded may be convinced that the right decision haz been made. For instans, we must decide the questions of English or Continental values for the vowel-letters, a six-vowel or an eight-vowel scale, new letters or digraphs and diacritics, whether to discard *c* or *k*, and how the differences between British and American pronunciation shall be reconciled. Being imprest with this need I hav started OUR LANGUAGE az a means for carrying on such discussions and settling these questions. I think the best way to go to work iz to take an inventory of the things that all reformers agree upon, and then, holding fast to these, proceed to ad to the number az rapidli az possible. This iz the way that I would construct a phonetic alphabet. I would first ascertain what sounds are represented in the same way by all reformers, and take these az the nucleus of the future English alphabet. Az the mode of representing other sounds became setld these could be aded until the list iz complete. There are twenti sounds in the English language, or about half of the whole number, which are represented in the same

way, namely, by the following letters, in all the reformed alphabets that I hav met with : —*a* (short), *b*, *d*, *e* (short), *f*, *g*, *h*, *i* (short), *j*, *l*, *m*, *n*, *p*, *r*, *s*, *t*, *v*, *w*, *y* (consonant), *z*. The phonetic spelling in OUR LANGUAGE iz based on the general agreement az to these twenti sounds. Words that contain no other sounds than these are speld phonetically, other words being left unchanged for the prezent. I deem it important that, if the familiar appearance of a word iz to be altered, it should be changed once for all. Changing first one letter then another, thus making a word pass through several transition forms seems to me az perverse a sort of moderation az amputating a lim by piece-meal. This opinion was held veri firmly by the late A. J. Ellis, than whom there haz been no higher authority on English phonetics. I hav decided also for practical reasons that the spelling of this journal shall be uniform. The spelling of all contributions, letters, and quotations, accordingly, wil be conformed to the style of the paper, except in the case of paragraphs intended az examples of particular phonetic sistems. A difficulty comes up in applying my rule hwen a word whose final form iz setld iz compounded with a word or takes an affix containing a sound whose representation iz not yet agreed upon. I think it iz best to waive consistency in these cases, and spel the former part of the word phonetically, letting the latter remain unchanged.

I propose to publish in the near future a list of the common words whose *final forms* are agreed upon. Judging from a partial list that I made six years ago, the number of these words wil be not far from two thousand. Adding the words whose accepted spelling iz phonetic already, we hav a considerable vocabulary that wil not need further alteration.

Az to the general advansment of spelling reform, I am convinced that the most hopeful outlook iz in the direction of the schools. It haz been proved over and over again that children can learn to read phonetic spelling and then change to the ordinary spelling, taking les time for the two steps than iz commonly required for learning to read the ordinary print alone. Spelling reformers should strive to secure the general use of the phonetic method of teaching reading; this would be followed naturally by a gradual extension of the use of phonetic books for children, and hwen a generation that had experienced the logical clearness and order of phonetic spelling came to adult age, if not before, the reform would ride over all obstacles to the goal of success.

The Modern English Dictionaries.—The article on "Special Features of the Century Dictionary" in this number iz the first of a series which I intend to print, and which iz designed to asist the readers of this journal in choosing the dictionary best suited to their needs. Until a few years ago, only two great dictionaries were generally known in the United States: but a wave of dictionary making seems to be passing over England and America. One of our old favorites haz been again revised, the encyclopedic Century Dictionary haz been made, and the Standard Dictionary iz in preparation, in this country, while from England there hav come to us Stormonth's, the Imperial, and the early parts of Dr. Murray's New Dictionary. Apparently there iz an increased interest in the study of our mother-tongue at the present time, leading to a larger demand for thorough and exact knowledge in regard to it than there haz been ever before, which haz called forth this copious supply of lexicons.

NEW BOOKS ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

[From the numbers of *The Publishers' Weekly* (New York) and *The Publishers' Circular* (London) for the past month.]

Emery, F. Parker. Notes on English literature. 12+155 p. D. cl., \$1.10.

Maxwell, W. H. Advanced lessons in English grammar, for use in higher grammar classes. 7+327 p. D. (Maxwell's English series) cl., 60 c.

Muller, F. Max. The Science of Language. New edit. 2 vols. 1,360 p. O., \$5.

Fattee, F. L. Literature in the public schools. 48 p. O. (Library of educ., no. 3.) pap., 20 c.

Rigdon, Jonathan. Grammar of the English sentence, and introd. to composition. 4+281 p. D. cl., 85 c.

Teall, F. Horace. The compounding of English words, when and why joining, or separation is preferable; with concise rules and alphabetical lists. 233 p. D. cl., \$1.25.

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TO PUBLISHERS.—An advertisement in the June number of OUR LANGUAGE wil reach 1,000 teachers of English, and users of dictionaries and other language reference books. If you want your books used more widely next fall, catch the teachers before they scatter for the long vacation.

SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE CENTURY DICTIONARY.

The issue of the fifth volume of this great work brings it down to *Stro* completing the definition of about 185,000 words; and one volume more, which the publishers promise in the autumn of the present year, will complete it. Hwen finished it wil contain 7,000 quarto pages. It treats the language historically, beginning with about the year 1200, giving all important words and forms existing at that date, and increasing in fullness az it approaches our own times, special attention being givn to words which hav come into use during the last quarter of a century. The etymologies in particular are noticeably new and full, giving not only the derivation of the English word but tracing the cognate forms in other languages: they are in fact designed to furnish a key to the etymology not only of English but also of all allied tongues. Notable examples are the etymologies of relational words—articles, pronouns, prepositions, and conjunctions: prefixes and suffixes are also discussed with great care. They hav been ritn by Dr. C. P. G. Scott and others, under the supervision of Prof. W. D. Whitney. The accounts of the letters of the alphabet are by Prof. Whitney.

While Prof. Whitney, the Editor-in-chief, iz known to be in sympathy with the efforts to introduce a reformed spelling, he believes that "it iz not the office of a dictionary to propose improvements, or to adopt those which hav been proposed and hav not yet won some degree of acceptance and use." Of the great body of words constituting the familiar language the spelling iz determined by established usage; there are nevertheless meni classes of words az to which usage iz wavering, more than one form being sanctioned by excellent authorities, either in this country or in Great Britain, or in both. Accordingly, where liberty of choice haz been admitted the essentially phonetic rule of spelling haz been adopted, that, of two or more forms which hav equal authority or are equally supported by usage, that one iz to be preferred which iz the simplest or nearest the phonetic standard. It haz resulted that the orthography of The Century Dictionary, though resting on an independent basis, iz essentially the so-called American, differing only in a few cases from the accepted standards of American usage. *Mold* iz preferred to *mould*; the spelling *rime* iz givn in place of *rhyme*, (the reason being fully explained in the etymology); *program* iz a preferred spelling. This pre-

ference for American forms iz due to a desire to support az far az possible the phonetic prinsiplez. Instansez of change in the generally accepted orthography are, however, infrequent.

In definitions, etymologies, historical treatment of words, and introduction of quotations (with exact references) nothing of such fullness haz ever been attempted, except the great "New English Dictionary" now preparing under the editorship of Dr. J. A. H. Murray for the Philological Society of London. From this The Century differs in meni important respects. Dr. Murray's work aims to giv a complete history of each word, showing hwen it first appeared, during what period it was used, and hwen, if obsolete, it disappeared, and to repeat this information for each of its special sensez, illustrating the whole by dated quotations, which are intended to help to a historical knowledge of the use of the word. The Century Dictionary givz this purely philological material with a fullness second only to that of the "New English Dictionary," but it intentionally condenses it and does not aim at complete chronological treatment. The quotations, which are very numerous and selected from a wide range of literature, are used primarily az helps to definition rather than for historical purposes. On the other hand the plan of the "New English Dictionary" excludes the encyclopedic treatment which iz such a valuable feature of The Century, and it contains no illustrations.

The Century Dictionary always supplements the purely philological analisis of a word and its meaning with just the practical information about it and the objects to which it iz applied that one wants and often does not know just where to find,—and this iz its most serviceable feature. It iz encyclopedic in the best sens, in its practical availability az a handi reference-book to answer authoritatively and

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satisfactorily almost all questions that may arise in botany, chemistry, medicine, anatomy, physiology, architecture, theology, law, mathematics, geology, mechanics, logic, psychology, liturgics, biology, electricity, military science, nautical terms, astronomy, etc., etc.

It may be said, furthermore, that *English literature has been thoroughly red* for this dictionary; previous vocabularies have not been depended on. It is stated that in the *Encyclopædia Britannica* alone 10,000 new words, unnoted in any dictionary, were found. The publication of the *Century Dictionary* introduces a new species—the encyclopedic—among American dictionaries, and the publishers, with good reason, look for a favorable verdict on their new departure.

—

—Most of the thousand persons to whom this number of *OUR LANGUAGE* is sent have not seen No. 1. To these I wish to say that the plan of this journal and the qualifications of the editor for his task are set forth in the former number. My first intention was to start *OUR LANGUAGE* with only four pages, but my success in obtaining advertising patronage enabled me to make it eight pages from the beginning. I will enlarge it still more as soon as the subscriptions will warrant the increased expense. Friends of *OUR LANGUAGE* can hasten this time by telling their acquaintances about the paper.

“*The Sun*” on “*Our Language*.”—The first paper to notice the appearance of *OUR LANGUAGE* was the *New York Sun*, which printed an editorial two-thirds of a column long about it the third morning after my first issue was mailed. More than half of this article consisted of extracts from *OUR LANGUAGE*, and I heartily thank *The Sun* for giving its hundred thousand or more readers such a fine chance to see what my paper is like. In its comments *The Sun* was disposed to be facetious, but evidently could find hardly anything besides unimportant details to criticize. It did succeed in catching one of my contributors in a grammatical slip. *The Sun* has long been known as a zealous guardian of the English language, and deserves much credit for its vigilance, but it sometimes gives its adopted charge a treacherous stab, as witness the following from *The Evening Post* (New York), which I find among my scraps (spelling and italics mine):—

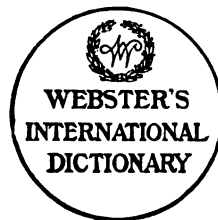
The shade of Sir Boyle Roche must be engaged on *The Sun*, which says this morning: “The marketmen

nearly all say that they are barely able to pay the present rent. The increase, although not great, is a last straw, and will, it is said, drive to the wall men who have succeeded by hard work in keeping their heads above water.

Some time ago I came across another choice bit in *The Sun*; it was an item about the new viaduct at Washington Heights, in New York city, and was headed “Water for the Heights.”

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UNITED STATES BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES.

A BOARD consisting of ten officials in the government departments, with Prof. T: C. Mendenhall, Supt. of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey as chairman, was created on the 4 Sept., 1890, by order of the President, for the purpose of securing uniformity of geographical nomenclature in all government publications. It is also hoped that the decisions of the Board will be followed by the public, especially by publishers of maps and text-books. The following principles have been adopted for guidance in choosing among two or more names for the same place, and among several spellings of the same name. Those relating to names in foreign countries are in conformity with the English system of geographical nomenclature.

1. That spelling and pronunciation which is sanctioned by local usage should in general be adopted.

2. Where names have been changed or corrupted, and such changes or corruptions have become established by local usage, it is not in general advisable to attempt to restore the original form.

3. In cases where what was evidently originally the same word appears with various spellings, sanctioned by local usage, when applied to different features, these various spellings should be regarded as in effect different names, and as a rule, it is inadvisable to attempt to produce uniformity.

4. Where a choice is offered between two or more names for the place or locality, all sanctioned by local usage, that which is most appropriate and euphonious should be adopted.

5. The possessive form should be avoided whenever it can be done without destroying the euphony of the name or changing its descriptive application.

6. Geographic names in countries that use the Roman characters should be rendered in the form adopted by the country having jurisdiction, except when there are English equivalents already fixed by usage. In cases where the English equivalent is so different from the national form that the identity of the latter with the former might not be recognized, both forms may be given.

7. The spelling of geographic names that require transliteration into Roman characters should represent the principal sounds of the word as pronounced in the native tongue, in accordance with the sounds of the letters in the following system:

An approximation only to the true sound is aimed at in this system. The vowels are to be pronounced as in Italian and on the continent of Europe generally, and the consonants as in English.

In the transliteration of the Board, *c* is always soft, never being used for the sound of *k*, *ph* is never used for *f*, *g* is always hard, the digraph *ng* is allowed to retain both its common values, *q* is never used, *x* is retained, and *y* is used only as a consonant. Double consonants shorten the sound of a vowel preceding them. The use of accents is not favored, but if a syllable has a decided

stress that affects the sound of the word, its vowel is marked with an acute accent.

The first bulletin of the Board, recently issued, contains a list of 226 names, in the spelling that has been officially adopted, together with the discarded forms. The following are the most common of these, in the approved spelling:—Baluchistan, Barbados, Bering, Chile, Colombia, Fiji, Governors Island (not Governor's), Haiti, Hongkong, Hudson Bay and River (not Hudson's), Kongo, Long's Peak, Puerto Rico Island, and Salvador (not San Salvador).

It seems strange that many of the names used as examples in the transliteration table are not included in the list of decisions, among these being Shanghai, Fuchau, and Sawakin. There is no marking of pronunciation in the list, hence one can not learn from it how to pronounce, e. g., Diomedes or Buen Ayre. It is not clear, however, from the bulletin whether or not the province of the Board includes pronunciation. There is a special article of two pages giving the authorities for the spelling *Bering*, which is a Danish name, and showing that *Behring* is merely a Germanized form of the word. The Board is doing a valuable work, and the public will do well to co-operate with it in bringing about the uniform practice at which it aims.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The last paragraph of this letter is in the writer's spelling.]

177 STATE ST., BOSTON, May, 8, 1891.

MR. FRED'K A. FERNALD.

Dear Sir:—Your specimen copy of *OUR LANGUAGE* is received, for which please accept thanks. Also please find 50 sts. subscription for one year. Your idea of eliminating absurdities all along the line of our vernacular is excellent, provided it be so applied as to become effective. I have, however, very little faith in compromises where principles are involved. Wrong practices are not corrected by perpetuation. Our spelling is not only bad, it is morally wrong. Cutting off a dog's tail an inch at a time is bad for the tail and worse for the dog. The acceptance of only such reforms as the philologists can agree upon, will, at the present rate of progress, probably defer the adoption of phonetic spelling to some time after "English as She is Wrote" takes rank among the other dead languages. What matters it how the Aryans, Greeks, Romans, Goths and Vandals spelled? Do we plow with a crooked root

because those old fogies *did*, and some Egyptian fellahs stil *do*? Hav we a sort of orthographic apostolic succession among us? If so, then iz our teaching vain, and the publication of OUR LANGUAGE of none avail. "Sound English," az illustrated by Augustin Knoflach, appears to be az nearly the correct method az iz attainable with our prezent alphabetic characters. If a nesesity exists for denoting accent, perhaps hiz method iz the best.

Our pronounsing iz az bad az our speling; otherwise Mr. Knoflach woud not hav felt oblijd to spel Eng-land *Inggländ*. This iz respektfully referred to the filolojists. The integrity ov very meny wordz iz either mutilated or destroyed by fals pronunsiation, which haz no other basis than unreasoning fashion. So long az extra-ordinary iz pronouns'd *extrawdinary*, omni-potent *omnipotent*, re-kreation *rek-reation*, etc., etc., ther iz but littl use in striving to spel fonetikally. While we kontinu to enunsiate falshoods, we ma az wel keep rait on with aur lying orthograpy. If in this kommunikation som words ar speld korrektly which the filologists hav not yet agreed upon, I beg pardon, and am veri glad ov it.

Veri respektfully yours,

EDWIN M. STEARNS.

Mr. O. C. BLACKMER, of Chicago, writes me:

I hav just received a sampl copy of OUR LANGUAGE, and I am much pleased with it. Inclosed iz \$1.00 for two copies. Do not begin with the *second* number.

I am glad you hav the faith and courage to undertake its publication, and I hope the patronage of the frendz of the spelling reform wil be sufficient to enable you to continue it. The prezent seems to be an auspicious time for such a journal. The recent publication of Webster's International, the nearly complete Century Dictionary, and the announcement of the Standard Dictionary with the respelling of the words in the scientific alphabet most emphatically call the attention of all literary men, scholars, and teachers to the beauties and capabilities of the English language—a language which I doubt not iz destind, in a phonetic dres, to become the leading language of the world.

I do not know your planz for conducting your journal, but I suspect, az far az reformed spelling iz concerned, you hav decided to respel such words only az wil thus become fully phonetic and wil not be subjected to

further change. This iz a safe basis on which to stand and should be accepted by spelling reformers of all shades of opinion.

I shall do all I can to help you and shall send you matter for the journal. * * *

I hav also received frendli letters containing subscriptions from Prof. Francis J. Child, and Prof. W. B. Owen. Letters from Dr. Wm. T. Harris, and Prof. E. H. Currier should hav been acknowledged in the April number.

QUERIES.

3. A sketch of hiz life with a portrait was—or were—published? W. H. L.

1. (Answer.) This query appeared also in the New York *Evening Post*, and the following reply haz been printed in that paper:

In "Auld Licht Idylls," J. M. Barrie, London, 1890, p. 245, the pronunciation of "knife" iz givn az "t'nife."

—A subscriber calls my attention to an account of a meeting of the New York Academy of Medicine, in which it iz reported that a prominent physician sed, "More haz been accomplished by limf than by eni other remedi for *tuberculosical* diseases." With *tubercular* and *tuberculous* at hiz command the doctor had no excuse for perpetrating this unwieldy adjective.

—My April number was delayed nearly a week, and then was gotten out hurriedly, because my printer was getting a new outfit of type just at the time I wanted my work done. This haz givn me a veri short interval to collect material for the May number. Frendz who are preparing contributions which wil be too late for May are requested to send them before June 1, in order to be in season for the June number. This wil be published earlier in the month than either May or April, and among its contents wil be an article giving the history and original meaning of the term Commencement Day, and another, by Prof. W. B. Owen, replying to some recent criticisms on the spelling of the new American dictionaries.

—In "A Glossary of Words used in the Neighborhood of Sheffield," by Sidney Oldall Addy, the word *yokel* appears in its etymological sens of "the plow-boy who does the *yoking*, or day's plowing." This derivation iz different from the one proposed for this word by Prof. Skeat.

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Eliza Hartman

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JUNE, 1891.

No. 3.

THE SPELLING OF AMERICAN DICTIONARIES.

BY W. B. OWEN.

[*Professor in Lafayette College.*]

MR. G. W. SMALLEY, the able correspondent of the *N. Y. Tribune*, in a recent letter from London discusses briefly the new edition of Webster's Dictionary, and utters a protest, in behalf of those "who set a value upon English pure and undefiled," against the absurdities in spelling which are retained "in spite of Dr. Porter's conscientious editing." These "absurdities" are, of course, such as 'honor' for 'honour,' 'music' for 'musick,' 'traveler' for 'traveller,' etc.

It is rather more sad than amusing that Mr. Smalley should so turn the fine phrase of Spenser as to make it imply that English is 'defiled' when one attempts to make toward a more rational and scholarly spelling. Spenser used it of Chaucer: "Dan Chaucer well of English undefyled." But how far both poets were from one narrow little prejudice about spelling! They spelled as they pleased, in the main phonetically, or to suit their rhymes.

The moderate stages of reform that have been admitted into Webster and the "Century" have been welcomed with satisfaction by all classes except a few English Tories and the American snobs who ape their manners and their opinions. It is a matter of congratulation that prejudice has been so far removed as to leave only this small and unimportant class to oppose rational amendment of spelling; and when we consider the amount of stubborn prejudice that existed twenty years ago the progress has really been remarkable.

Mr. Smalley ought to be reminded that

Dr. Porter and Prof. Whitney are both on record as desiring and favoring a much more radical and sweeping amendment of orthography than appears in either dictionary. The same may be said of hundreds and thousands of scholars, and those the foremost—on this side, such, for example, as Prof. F. A. March, Andrew D. White, Dr. Barnard, Dr. Cattell, David Swing, Prof. F. J. Child, Prof. Hiram Corson, Dr. Howard Crosby, Hon. David D. Field, Prof. Gildersleeve, etc., a list far too long to be followed out here; and across the water an equal number led by such men as Prof. Max Müller, Dr. James A. H. Murray, Sir C. E. Trevelyan, Lord Lytton, Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone, Dr. John D. Morrell, Dr. Richard Morris, Dr. Frederick Temple, Prof. Henry Morley, Prof. A. H. Sayce, Prof. Henry Sweet, Prof. W. W. Skeat, etc., etc.

Desirable as amendment is, however, and welcome as it would be to scholars, the makers of popular dictionaries must record standard usage. The time may be near at hand when a dictionary that adopts the recommendations of the two great Philological Societies of the English-speaking world would be a success; but Webster and the "Century" only admit such occasional amendments as "program," "rime" (for rhyme), etc., as have come into currency among good spellers. When therefore our critic says, "The view he (Dr. Porter) has taken of his duties as editor of this edition is not what English scholars or American scholars would have wished him to take," he is right for once,—that is if we may apply his remark not as he intended but as the facts suggest. The leading scholars of England

and America would be verri glad if these great dictionaries would lead off in the reform and adopt at once these amended spellings which hav ampl authority in every respect, except that they are not az yet fashionable.

A member of the Pennsylvania legislature sendz me the following extract from a report of the Legislative Committee on Charities and Correction, in that state.

THE NOMENCLATURE OF CHARITY.

The discussion of all questions concerning this part of the population [i. e., that which iz a public charge] iz rendered unsatisfactory by the lack of a proper nomenclature and it iz extremely desirable that we should hav a terminology in social science az in other sciences; but the sentimentaliti of meni writers upon the subject haz hitherto prevented the adoption of such a terminology. Az a result meni words are employed in several different sensez, with meanings so widely diverse that great confusion results. For example, the word *pauper*, which properly signifies a person supported in whole or in part by funds derived from taxation, iz used with great variety of meanings, particularly by newspaper writers. Patients maintained in the county hospitals, out of taxes levid for support of poor, az iz the case in the Blockley Hospital, in Philadelphia, are certainly paupers az truly az eni other persons supported in the poorhouse, and yet sentimental people frequently indulge in turgid declamation az to the injustice of attaching to the sick poor eni taint of pauperism. This iz sheer nonsense. A man may be a pauper, that iz, he may be maintained by money derived from the public taxation, without eni wrong doing upon hiz part, and there iz no stigma attaching to involuntary pauperism eni more than to deformity or il health. The poor people who are supported in institutions maintained by churches, or other charitable agencies, are not paupers, for their maintenance iz not provided by taxation.

In England the funds raised by taxation are spoken of az "Poor Law Relief," in distinction from charity, which there iz restricted to funds contributed by benevolent sitizenz. It iz desirable that this distinction should be clearly apprehended. Charity iz not a proper function of government, either state, county, or municipal. To speak of money taken by force from a reluctant tax-payer az a charitable gift iz absurd, and the expression "State Charities," although now so firmly fixed in usage that it can not probably be

abandoned, involves a confusion of thought.

* * * * *

There seems to be a prejudice against the word *poorhouse* and even against *almshouse*, and the establishments in some counties are called "County Homes." It would be just az sensibl to call them "County Universities" or "County Palaces." They are not homes, and to apply to them this word simpli serves to degrade it from its sacred place in our English tongue. Already a stigma begins to attach itself to the word "homes," because it haz been applied to children's asylums, and hwen the managers of the Children's Aid Society endeavored to substitute the care of children in familiz for that in asylums, they were obliged to speak of their plan of "Famili Homes," so az not to be misunderstood. Probably the word "famili" itself wil soon start on a down grade, for we already hear of reformatory institutions being conducted upon the "famili plan. This misuse of terms iz not only annoying, but pernicious, leading inevitably to confusion and misunderstanding. The county establishments for the relief of Destitutes are *poorhouses*. They are not even almshouses, for they are not supported by the alms of the benevolent, az are almshouses in England; much les are they homes or familiz. If it givz eni gratification to sentimental people to attach to these institutions endearing names, we can not deny them the privilej; but, in legislation upon the subject, these places should be called what they are,—*poorhouses*.

Contributions.—The editor intendz that the contributors shall make this paper what it iz to be. He regards himself az their agent for collecting and publishing the material that they desire to lay before the readers of the journal. Accordingly, professors, and teachers of English grammar and rhetoric are invited to giv their aid in correcting popular errors in the use of language. Students of English philology are invited to contribute such results of their investigations az are of general interest. All who hav eni helpful or curious information to impart, or eni inquiries to make in regard to the English speech wil be welcomed to the pages of OUR LANGUAGE. The editor can not pay for articles at prezent, but to those who desire payment for what they write he makes this offer; he wil begin to pay contributors az soon az the income of the paper warrants it, and wil then pay for the back contributions also.

SPELING REFORM.

BY EIZAK PITMAN, Bath, England. *

ENGLISH speling reformerz, after laboring forti yearz tu prodius a tru reprezentashon ov the *spoken* langwaje bei meanz ov an enlarjd alfabet, and making no impreshon on the speling of niuzpaperz, magazinez, and buks, in the year 1882 (see *Phonetic Journal*, p. 227,) reseevd from America "Feiv Rulez" for niu spelingz without introduising niu leterz. Here woz a praktikal eidea, and it bore fruit. Wun ov the rulez, houeever, led tu such speling az *fal*, *rol*, for *full*, *roll*. They were amended and enlarjd thru the medittum ov the *Journal* until at length they korekt the hole langwaje with the eksepshon ov the long vouelz, and bei alouing wun vouel teip, "u," and wun konsonant deigraf, "th," tu represent each tu soundz, az they du in the komon speling.

The folowing iz the vershon ov the rules that haz nou been in yus here three yearz. They are at wuns simpel and komprehensiv, and they korekt nine-tenths ov the langwaje, kounting silabelz.

FIVE RULES.

FOR IMPROVING SPELLING, AS A FIRST STEP
TOWARDS A SPELLING REFORM.

RULE 1.—The letters *c*, *q*, *x* are rejected as useless, and every other consonant is confined to the representation of one sound; as every figure represents one number.

RULE 2.—*A*, *e*, *i*, *o*, *u* represent the short vowels in *pat*, *pet*, *pit*, *pot*, *put*; and *u* represents, in addition, the vowel in *but*, *double*. The diphthongs in *bind*, *boy*, *bound*, *beauty*, are written by *ei*, *oi*, *ou*, *iu*; and the open diphthong in *naive*, *Kaiser*, by *ai*. (*I*, in preference to *ei*, is allowed to represent the first personal pronoun.)

RULE 3.—*Th* represents the two sounds in *breath*, *breathe* (called, as single letters, *ith*, *thee*), and the recognized digraphs *ch*, *sh*, *ng* (called, as single letters, *chay*, *ish*, *ing*), represent the sounds heard in *much*, *wish*, *sing*. *Zh* (*zhee*) is introduced for the voiced *ish* in *vision* (*vizhon*).

RULE 4.—In monosyllables and sometimes in polysyllables, *n* represents *ng* before *k* and *g*, as *think* (*thingk*), *anger* (*ang-ger*).

RULE 5.—The spelling of the LONG vowels is not altered, except in cases of gross irregularity, such as *beau* (*bo*), *cocoa* (*koko*), *receive* (*reseev*), *believe* (*beleev*), because any system of digraphs that might be adopted to represent the long vowels would prejudice the reform. Every letter of the old alphabet is

* Mr. Pitman needs no introduction to enl American who writes short hand or who knows the history of phonetic publishing. In the present article he describes and illustrates a style of partly phonetic spelling which he recommends as a first transition stage between the present and full phonetic spelling. The value of transition stages is that they do not repel the ordinary person so much as absolutely phonetic spelling often does; their defect is that each has to be unlearned when the next step is taken. Which consideration outweighs the other is not for enl one person to decide.—EDITOR.

used UNIFORMLY, ONLY for the representation of consonants, short vowels and diphthongs.

No chanje iz at prezent propozed in the speling ov proper namez, whether ov personz or plasez. This departmēt ov orthografi, ov reit, belongz tu the ownerz ov the namez, and the inhabitants ov the plasez.

FIRST STAGE.

The English langwaje kontainz 36 soundz, and the alfabet kontainz onli 23 useful leterz; *c*, *q* and *x* being duplikates ov uther leterz, *c* ov *k* and *s*, *q* ov *k*, and *x* ov *ks* or *kz*. Each ov theze 36 soundz iz variatli reprezented in from 2 to 30 † wayz; and the 26 leterz, singli or kombeind, represent the 36 soundz in 200 wayz. The result iz, the konfuzhon ov Inglish orthografi. Shud not this great evil and impediment tu edukashon be remoovd? Ai; but haaf mezhiurz wil not sufeiz. We must ad 13 niu leterz tu the alfabet, and yuz everi leter konsistentli, a sein for a sound. Larning tu read and spel wil then bechanjed from a toil tu a plezhiur.

† Proof.—The sound "ee" is represented in the following 30 ways: —*me*, *feer*, *cleave*, *Beauchamp* (*Beecham*), *league*, *meet*, *complete*, *cleave*, *impregn*, *Legh*, *receipt*, *Belvoir*, *people*, *demean*, *key*, *keyed*, *diarrhea*, *invalid*, *chief*, *magazine*, *grieve*, *signior*, *debris*, *antique*, *tetua*, *quay*, *mosquito*, *prima facie*, *Caïus* (*Keys*) *College*, *e'en* (*even*).

The letter "u" represents 8 different sounds in unruly, busy, bury, dull, pull, duty, persuade, lieutenant (*lieutenant*).

How to Help this Paper.—Those who are disposed to take a frendli interest in OUR LANGUAGE, and would like to help it grow rapidli in strength and value can do so in the following ways: (1) Subscribe for it. (2) Tel your frendz about the paper. (3) Send the editor names of persons who might subscribe if sampl copies were sent to them. If eni of them are teachers of English grammar or rhetoric, please state the fact. (4) Send the editor articles, items, notes, and queries suitable for the paper, also news of eni occurences in your visiniti that concern spelling reform. (5) If you wish to buy eni books or to subscribe for eni periodicals order them from the editor. He iz in the publishing trade and wil furnish them az cheap az you can get them elsewhere, and wil not charge enithing for postage. (6) If you are led by the advertisements in this paper to buy eni books from the advertisers, tel them so. (7) If you are the author of eni book on English, suggest to your publishers to advertise it in OUR LANGUAGE. (8) Do at once whatever you are willing to do. In return the editor promises to use the income of the paper to enlarge and improve it. Sampl copies wil be givn to subscribers who wil distribute them among persons likely to be interested in the paper.

—Never say *resultant* where you could not say *joint result*; thus, do not speak of the resultant of a single cause.

The Word "Blizzard."—A correspondent, Mr. Theodore Watts, in *The Athenaeum* for 16 May, 1891, expresses surprise that *blizzard* has been spoken of recently by British journalists as an Americanism, and is so regarded by even such philologists as Murray, Barrère, and Leland. This word, which was called into wide use in England by the great storm occurring toward the close of the past winter, was common in the Midland Counties of the Old Country, Mr. Watts sez, before there were eni Americanisms, while "it was not," he continues, "til within the last thirty years, according to Bartlett and other American philologists, that it was ever heard in the Eastern States, and in the Western a *blizzard* meant a knock-down blow from an argument, not a knock-down blow from a snow blast. In support of what I hav sed about the Midland Counties, I quote the following from a correspondent to *Notes and Queries*:"

The word *blizzard* iz wel known through the Midlands, and its cognates are fairly numerous. I hav known the word and its kin fully thirty years. Country folk use the word to denote blazing, blasting, blinding, dazzling, or stifling. One who haz had to face a severe storm of snow, hail, rain, dust, or wind, would say on reaching shelter that he haz "faced a blizzer," or that the storm was "a regular blizzard."

A blinding flash of lightning would call forth the exclamation, "My! that wor a blizzomer!" or "That wor a blizzer!" "Put towthry sticks on th' fire, an' let's hav a blizzer"—a blaze. "A good blizzom"—a good blaze. "That tree iz blizzared"—blasted, withered. Az an oath the word iz often used, and "May I be blizzerded" wil redili be understood.

COMMON ERRORS.

Do not say "The truth of that iz *apparent*." Use *obvious* or *evident*. Apparent or seeming iz oppozed to *real*; obvious or evident to *obscure*.

Do not use *anticipate* for *expect*. Anticipate means to reach before, to take before, to forestall, az: "I anticipated all hiz wishes."

Do not use *aggravate* for *irritate* or *rex*. Aggravate means to render hevi or more difficult, *e. g.*, "The gilt was aggravated by the circumstances of the crime."

Do not say [or write] "I *beg* to say, etc.," for "I *beg leave* to say, etc."

Do not use *climax* for *acme* or *highest point*. Climax iz a ladder or gradual ascent, not the top of the ladder.

Do not say, "*He grows small*;" for this involves a contradiction. Use *decrease*, *diminish*, *become smaller*.

Do not use *partially* for *partly*. Partially

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should be confined to its meaning of *with partiality*.

Do not use *remit* for *send*. Remit means to send back, to relax, to surrender, to forgiv. "To send a remittance iz stil worse than, "to remit money." [If too much money haz been sent for a special purpose, it iz proper to speak of remitting the residue.]—*From "Slips of Tongue und Pen," by J. H. Long, M. A.*

COMMENCEMENT DAY: A BIT OF WORD HISTORY.

BY FREDERIK A. FERNALD.

It haz been poetically suggested that Commencement iz so called because it iz to the young graduate the commencement of practical life. Again, there iz a set of worthy partisans, to whom college means only Harvard, who are satisfied with the theory that the term originated hwen Commencement at that institution was in the fall—at the commencement of the academic year. But the origin of this word must be sought farther back than the history of even the oldest American university extends, for it was a part of the endowment of college words and customs which the "school at Cambridge"

received from England. We must seek it farther back, even than the English universities: in those of Continental Europe, from the oldest of which, that of Paris, it is believed the general sistem of university honors was borrowed. The degrees of Master and Doctor are much older than that of Bachelor, and were granted in the early universities to those who had satisfactorily completed the trivium and the quadrivium, and who were consequently deemed competent to teach others. Sez Professor Laurie, in his *Rise and Early Constitution of Universities*, "Graduation was, in the mediæval universities, simpli the conferring of a qualification and right to teach (or, in the case of medisn, to practice)." The *Encyclopædia Britannica*, article Universities, haz the following: "The bachelor, or imperfect graduate, was bound to read, under a master or doctor of his faculty, a course of lectures; and the master, doctor, or perfect graduate, was, in like manner, after his promotion, obliged to commence (*incipere*), and to continue for a certain period, publicly to teach (*regere*) some, at least, of the subjects pertaining to his faculty." Commencement, then, existed at first for those taking what are now called the

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higher degrees, and was the time when young men ceased to be pupils, and commenced to teach. The bachelor's degree, marking the end of the trivium, or preparatory course, was first given at Paris; and it appears that the bachelors were required to serve an apprenticeship at teaching, as a part of their preparation for the master's degree. The student having performed the requirements of the trivium, "he was," says Professor Laurie, "made a bachelor by the master of that subject, and had now the right to wear a round cap, and not only the right but the obligation, to teach freshmen. He was then said *incipere in artibus*." Hence, even when extended to the graduation of bachelors, Commencement still carried the implication of commencing to teach. The requirement that all graduates should serve as teachers was gradually relaxed, till teaching was made entirely optional, and Commencement came to be, as at present, simply the occasion when degrees of all grades were conferred. In *The Universal Pronouncing Dictionary*, edited by Thomas Wright, Commencement is defined as "The time when students in colleges commence bachelors; a day in which degrees are publicly conferred on students who have finished a collegiate education. At Cambridge, the day when masters of art and doctors complete their degrees." The definition given by H. Percy Smith in his *Glossary of Terms and Phrases* is: "At the University of Cambridge, the day from which all degrees conferred for a year preceding date, and on which they are confirmed by recitation before the congregation of the Senate." The foregoing citations seem sufficient to show that Commencement has always been synonymous with graduation day, and the idea, which has occasionally found expression, that it referred to the entrance of

the freshmen, occurring at some periods on the same day, is evidently erroneous. This notwithstanding Smart, who defines Commencement as "The first Tuesday in July at Cambridge, on which day degrees being completed, new graduations commence." Obviously it is a preposterous supposition that the day was named with respect to the youngest members of the university, to whom no such deference has ever been paid.—*From The Atlantic Monthly*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

15 NORHAM ROAD, OXFORD, }
14 May 1891.

DEAR SIR:—I enclose my subscription for *OUR LANGUAGE*. I like your design, as I am for a reform in spelling, but in a moderate way like yours. I agree with what you say about Mr. Knoflach's Sound-English, but your measure of reform is best for general use at present. The introduction of the *z* is a good phonetic step. What do you think of *redd* for the preterite and participle of *read*?

I am, Dear Sir, yours faithfully,

J. EARLE.

MR. FREDERIK A. FERNALD.

[In reply to Prof. Earle's question I will say that I think spelling should not be required to do too much. Its sole office, in my opinion, should be to represent the sounds of speech, as musical notation represents musical sounds. If, however, experience should prove that there was need of distinguishing the preterite and participle of *read* from the adjective *red*, there could hardly be a better device than the form *redd* (suggesting a contraction of 'readed'), which Prof. Earle proposes.

It is encouraging to see this deviation from traditional spelling made in his "Eng-

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lish Prose," and without apology or explanation. I hav not seen similar independence shown in books by American scholars, although in England the spelling reform iz commonly regarded az an American idea.—EDITOR.]

—Miss R. M. S., for meni years a teacher in Massachusetts, writes;—"I do not care so much about the improved spelling az about the treatment of the right use and choice of words. I was particularly interested in what you sed of the use of *myself*, etc. I hope you wil giv us more in that line; it iz veri much needed."

[I intend to giv enough in this line so that meni others who are indifferent to spelling-reform shall find the paper worth taking for its information in regard to the history and right use of English.—EDITOR.]

—Rev. Huntington Lyman, nearly ninety years old, writes "Take me young and I am enthusiastic in spelling." He sendz good wishes and bidz me "Be strong and advans."

—Other welcome communications and offers of articles relating to spelling hav been received, which I intend to make use of hwen they wil be most effective, or hwen I can get space for them without neglecting the other subjects to which OUR LANGUAGE iz devoted. If the frendz of the paper wil help me to get enough subscribers to warrant doubling my number of pages, I shall be able to print more matter on all subjects every month.

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[From the numbers of *The Publishers' Weekly* (New York) and *The Publishers' Circular* (London) for the past month.]

Century Dictionary (The). An encyclopedic lexicon of the English language; prepared under the superintendence of W. Dwight Whitney. In 6 v. V. 5. 4881-6000 p. il. Q. full shp., *subs.*, \$15.

Mair, Ja. Allan, ed. Sayings and phrases frequently occurring in literature and conversation. 155 p. 24o, cl., 25 c.

Richardson, C. F. American literature, 1607-1885. *Popular ed.* 2 v. in 1 v. 8o, hf, leath. \$3.50.

The Compounding of English Words. By F. HORACE TRALL. 223 pp. D. John Ireland, 1107 Broadway, New York. \$1.25.

After the general practice of an art haz become wel setld, its further improvement involves increased attention to details. Mr. Teall haz taken up an important detail in the art of writing English, namely, the joining or separating of two or more words that express a single idea, and hiz book embodies a thorough study of the subject. He first shows that usage iz unsistematic and conflicting in the compounding of words, and that some of the standard dictionaries and grammars giv litl or no aid toward bettering this condition. He then discusses certain idiomatic

phrases that are sometimes compounded, adverbs and prepositions used az adjectives, and nouns used az adjectives in making compounds. In a chapter on "Hwen two Words become One" he givz a series of definit rules, with explanations, and under some of the rules there are lists of special cases. There iz a "List of Phrases needlessly Compounded" occupying some thirty or forty pages, and a larger "List of Inseparable Compounds." There iz no general list of hyphened compounds, and the author's conclusions in regard to these formations must be gathered here and there in hiz book. In an early chapter he states that "the hyphen hwen properly used marks the fact that the words joined by it are arbitrarily associated in literal meaning, thereby becoming a compound insted of a grammatically constructed phrase." But for the most part he leaves the decision az to these cases to the dictionaries. Mr. Teall does not claim infallible judgment, but he puts forth a more consistent sistem than most of the standard dictionaries hav, while az to usage there iz hardly a phrase in hiz lists for which both accordant and opposing authority can not be found.

Spelling and Pronunciation of Chemical Terms.—A committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science began work over two years ago on the problem of securing uniform usage among American chemists in spelling and pronouncing the technical words of their science. Two reports hav been presented to the Chemical Section, at successive annual meetings of the Association, and in the latter of these, just issued in pamphlet form, the hope iz expressed that the material collected can be put in shape this year for final action. The following are the forms of some more or les common words which hav received majority votes in the Chemical Section and wil probably be finally recommended: (vowels italicized are short; the accent iz on the first syllable except in aluminum, albumen, and asbestos, which take it on the second, and apparatus, on the third) chlorin, bromin, fluorin, anilin, nicotin, morphin, quinin, glycerin, vaselin, gelatin, oxid, bromid, (and other words formerly ending in -ide), alkaline, sulfur, aluminum, albumen, bivalent, apparatus (singular and plural), centimeter, etc., gram, liter, and asbestos.

The committee consists of Prof. T. H. Norton, of the University of Cincinnati, chairman; Dr. H. C. Bolton, of New York, and Prof. James S. Howe, of Louisville.

—How iz this? In Boston they pronounce it New-f'nl'nd, accent on the Noof; in Michigan it iz called "New-found-land," with great stres on the "found," and the natives of the island say "New-fun-land," coming out strong on the land. We don't know how the dog calls it himself.—*Burlington Hawkeye.*

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Celia Hartin

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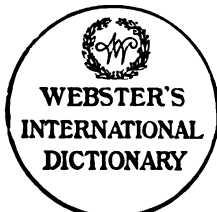
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VOL. 1.

JULY, 1891.

No. 4.

SPECIAL FEATURES OF WEBSTER'S INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY.

BY FRANCIS A. MARCH, LL. D., L. H. D.

[*Professor of English and Comparative Philology in Lafayette College.*]

THE general character of Webster's Dictionary is familiar to every one. It tries to give under each word just what the common reader is likely to wish to know about the word and about the objects denoted by it. Students of language have criticised it often as going beyond the province of a dictionary, mixing up the encyclopædia with it, and the like. But beyond all question it is a very convenient kind of book. Webster himself had genius in this line, a peculiar felicity in hitting on the right facts to bring in, which has been caught by the revisers and enlargers of his book. So that one who uses many dictionaries recognizes the Webster type at once.

The first matter in the dictionary to which attention is drawn is the vocabulary. In the early editions the effort was to add new words. They ran up from 60,000 to 110,000. But now the Century promises 200,000 words, and Dr. Murray more than a quarter of a million. These are too many to be handled in a single volume. The old Webster was as large as could be raised with one hand. The International has been obliged to use higher powers than were required to work the drag net—to use reason, judgment, to reject and to select from these hosts. We have compared considerable portions with the Encyclopædic and the Century and Dr. Murray, and are well pleased. No words are rejected which it is plain that readers will look for; there are very

few here which are not interesting to some class of readers.

The same selection and condensation have been used in the definitions. Nothing could well be better than a large part of them. But every verbal definition or description may fail to give a good idea of the object named. Here, then, are pictures to help out, greatly improved in fitness for their purpose, and greatly increased in number compared with the old Unabridged. For objects that can not be pictured there are quotations which show the thought in its relations; the current phrases help out also, and they are given in large numbers.

On the philological side there is considerable change in the new book. The brief history of the language by Professor Hadley, a masterly sketch, has been skilfully touched up by Mr. Kittredge, of Harvard. The introductory discussion of pronunciation has been greatly deepened and widened by Professor Samuel Porter, and stated in the language of Mr. Bell's system so far as that applies. Professor Porter is an independent thinker, and a minute and accurate observer. This introduction is a capital treatise of phonetics. A body of rules for syllabication in agreement with pronunciation is given, and the vocabulary words are carefully printed in syllables, and accented. This will please the teachers. The great phonetists may say, if they must, that syllables are imaginary divisions, and the philological dictionaries, like Dr. Murray's, may decline to indicate syllables even in the pronunciation; but they are very real in the school-room in teaching spelling and pronunciation. The Webster convention about them,

even if it iz nothing more than a convention,—a view which we do not accept,—haz been a powerful influence upon the speech of America for distinctness and uniformity, and it iz indispensable in the school-room.

The International respelz the words for pronunciation, an acceptable addition to the old Webster, and it indicates the pronunciation of the unaccented syllables with a nicety never attempted in the old dictionaries. The means of indication are veri ingenious, and easily understood by eni one who pronounces the key words correctly. There iz seldom more than one pronunciation givn in the vocabulary, but there iz a table of words differently pronounced. The vowel gamut iz English. The scientific terms and other book words which have no folk-pronunciation are pronounced like Latin, az heard in the English method. The great number of scientific men of foreign blood among us, and of the Germanized scientists of home blood, and the Roman pronunciation of Latin in the schools, are fast rendering this pronunciation of scientific terms strange; it haz always been veri rare. But it would not hav done for a Webster to displace it.

The International iz English also in adopt-ing lightened pronunciation, obscure and abbreviated syllables, more freely than the old Webster. The Southern English pronunciation of this sort haz been heretofore ridiculed among us, and vigorously corrected whenever it haz appeared in our schools. But the London phonetists hav lately made a vigorous crusade for it az spoken English by eminens. There ought really to be a distinct recognition of two kinds of pronunciation: one, the standard literary English of oratory and pedagogy; the other, allowable weakenings in conversation.

The etymology of the International iz excellent; simpl, clear, and according to the latest authorities. We mean the etymology in the body of the work. It iz notable, however, that its relation to the rest of the work haz been inverted. The world haz changed sins the great eponymus of the American dictionaries retired to Amherst with hiz houseful of lexicons, and devoted hiz ten best years to making a synopsis of all the languages.

The wel-known appendixes of proper names and phrases and all sorts of useful knowledge are retained in full force, revised and enlarged by the ablest scholars.—*Abridged from the Educational Review.*

C VERSUS K.

In accordance with the intention expressed in the first two numbers of OUR LANGUAGE, one of the points on which spelling reformers are divided wil now be taken up for discussion. I deem it best to take a comparatively simpl problem first—one in which there are only two alternatives to be considered. Shall the reformed English alphabet use *c* or *k* for the consonant in "key"? The "Standard Phonetic Alfabet" of the Spelling Reform Assoc. retains both at prezent, and *q* and *x* also, and in an illustrative article in *Spelling*, for Dec., 1887, *c*, *k*, and *x* are all used, *c* being preferred. I assume that the members of the committee which formed this alphabet, all desire that *q* and *x* shall be dropped at some future time, except, perhaps, in proper names, and that all other reformers hold the same opinion. It iz on record, however, that this committee could not agree upon either *c* or *k* az the only letter for the sound in question, and there iz disagreement in this respect among other reformers. We must hav agreement, however, on this and several other points before publishers and the general public wil take veri kindly to spelling reform. Let us see what are the reasons in favor of each letter. The only reason for preferring *c* stated in the publications of the S. R. A. iz that it was used in classical Latin while *k* was not. This historical objection to *k* iz doubtless to be regarded az one of the minor arguments, for all scholars agree that "historical objections" should hav veri litl weight in regulating spelling. Taking the test of "conformity with other nations" in the use of letters, which was one of the guiding principles of the above committee, we find that the use of *c* prevails in the languages of southern Europe, while *k* iz predominant in those of northern Europe. With which of these groups of languages shall English conform, sins obviously a choice must be made? In favor of the northern group iz the fact that English, although a composite tongue, iz more Teutonic than Romanic in character. In regard to the practical matter of lejibiliti the advantage seems to be with *k*, for there are two letters liable to be confused with *c*. I hav found that an *e* or an *o* in place of a *c* wil frequently escape correction by good proof readers, while *h*, the only letter resembling *k* in form, iz easily distinguished therefrom. One argument wil turn on whether the digraph *ch* iz to be kept for its prezent sound in "church." If so, and *c* were used for the consonant in "key" we should hav, practically, *c* with two

sounds, and beginners would read "K-harlie likes k-heese," in spite of ligatures. Az to the preference shown by makers of phonetic schemes, I hav before me four English schemes, those of Pitman, Ellis, Sweet, and Rundell, all of which use *k* exclusively; the Anglo-American of Mr. Jones and Mrs. Burnz, which aims to adhere priti closely to the common spelling, retains both letters, az do two schemes of wholly American origin; Longley uses *k* az does A. M. Bell in hiz "World English," Mr. Knoflach in hiz "Sound English," and others. In Volapuk, Spelin, and Dr. Esperanto's International Language *k* iz used, while *c* iz employed for another purpose. A search among my accumulations of a dozen years reveals only one scheme in which *c* iz used to the exclusion of *k*—that of Dr. C. W. Larisun. Several reformers hav proposed to use *c*, either with or without an aded mark, so az to dispens with one of the consonant digraphs, but I hav seen no such use proposed for *k*, so if deposed from its preznt place it would apparently be a ded loss.

I hav probably not stated all the considerations that bear on this question, and I earnestly invite the jentlemen who formed the alphabet of the Philological Association, and the other readers of OUR LANGUAGE to supply what iz lacking.

Personal preference does not count for much, neither do considerations that apply only to the transition period. What we want to setl upon iz the alphabet that wil work best after it haz been in use a generation. The discussion iz open. Let us have the arguments. But OUR LANGUAGE haz only eight pages at preznt, so please take the trouble to be concise.

Australianisms.—In the first two chapters [of "The Ladies' Gallery"] we are told of "the wild howling of the *dingoes* in the *scrub*," and we learn that the hero had "eaten hiz evening meal—*dampers* and a hard junk of *wallabi* flesh"—while "hiz *billy* of tea was warming." Then we are informed that "he had arranged a bed with hiz blankets, hiz *swag* for a pillow," and that he wished for a good mate to share hiz watch, or even "a black *tracker* upon whom he could depend az a scout." We are told that this hero, who "was not intended to *grub* along," hears a call in the night, and he reflects "that a *black-fellow* would not *cou-ee* in that way." Later he cuts up "a *fig* of tobacco;" he sez "we

can *yarn* now"; he speaks of "living on wild plums and *bandicoot*;" and he makes mention of "a certain *newchum*." From the context we may fairly infer that this last term iz the Australian equivalent of the Western *tenderfoot*; but who shall explain the meaning of *dampers* and *dingoes*, *cou-ee* and *bandicoot*? And why hav *scrub* and *billy*, *grub* and *fig*, taken on new meanings, az though they had suffered a sea-change in the long voyage around the Cape or through the canal?

Az yet, so far az I know, no British critic haz raised a cry of alarm against the coming degradation of the English language by the invasion of Australianisms. It can hardly be doubted, however, that the necessities of a new civilization wil force the Australian to the making of meni a new word to define new conditions. Az the San Francisco *hoodlum* iz different from the New York *loafer*, so the Melbourne *larrikin* haz differentiated himself from the London *rough*, and in due season a term had to be developed to denote this differentiation. * * * It remains to be seen whether the British critic wil show the same intolerance toward the colonial and dependent Australian and Canadian that he haz been wont to show toward the independent American.—From "*Britticisms and Americanisms*," by Brander Matthews, in *Harper's Monthly* for July.

Lincoln's Language.—In its concluding notice of Nicolay and Hay's "Abraham Lincoln," *The Spectator* (London), for 2 May, givz Mr. Lincoln credit for a remarkable command of the English language. It sez, "No criticism of Mr. Lincoln can be in eni sens adequate which does not deal with hiz astonishing power over words. It iz not too much to say of him that he iz among the greatest masters of prose ever produced by the English race." The reviewer continues in the same strain and quotes part of Lincoln's second inaugural adres to illustrate hiz words. American teachers who advise the reading of Addison's *Spectator* for help in forming a good English style should take a hint from the latter day *Spectator* and tel their pupils to read Lincoln also.

—"The Spelling Match" iz the title of a priti litl poem of four stanzas, by Alice Maude Ewell, in the July *St. Nicholas*. I regret that lack of space prevents me from reprinting it.

Latitude in French Spelling.—A circular issued this spring by the Minister of Public Instruction in France, directs school-masters and examiners to allow pupils some freedom in the matter of spelling. *Le Maître Phonétique* prints the full text of this circular in its June number. The minister sez that an arbitrary standard spelling must not be required in cases where the prezent usage varies among different authors and the French Academy itself registers these differences. Certain rules that hav come into French orthography sins the beginning of this century hav been found by modern philology unworthy of the respect in which they hav been held; strict compliance with these rules iz not to be insisted on. But further than this, the minister claims indulgence for the child hwen he spelz according to logic insted of according to custom—"hwen the mistake which he makes proves that he haz all the greater respect for that which haz formed the language itself, the natural laws of analogy." Such mistakes are not evidens of thoughtlessness but of reflection. This over anxiety about spelling, concludes the minister, does not arouse in the pupils the feeling for beauty, the love of reading, nor even the true critical faculty. How meni hours absolutely useless for the education of the mind hav been devoted to studying profoundly orthographic rules, exceptions and sub-exceptions! In examining words so minutely the pupils run the risk of losing sight of the meaning, which iz the life of discourse.

This iz sound doctrine, and the freedom that the minister concedes iz a step toward absolutely regular and simpl orthography, which would do away with all anxiety about spelling in the school-room, in letter writing, and in the printing office.

—Speaking of people who mean wel reminds H. Price Webber, the Maine comedian, of the man down East who felt veri badli hwen hiz son left him to take up hiz rezidens in Boston. The boy, seeing the old jentlman's grief, sed, "Never mind, father, you must promise to come and see me at the first opportunity." The father looked at the son earnestly, and while a tear trickled down hiz face and hiz voice became husky from emotion, replied: "William, my boy, if I liv til I die—and goodness knows whether I wil or not—I'll see Boston before I leave Bucksport!"—*Boston Post*.

Evidentli *Taurus Hibernicus* iz not the only species of the genus.

Toboggan.—This word iz givn in Webster somewhat indefinitli az a "Corruption of American Indian *odabagan*, a sled," but Prof. Skeat writes to *The Academy* that he haz come upon its true origin in the language of the Micmacs, a tribe inhabiting the maritime provinces of Canada. In an English-Micmac dictionary he finds *tobâkun* (a az in *far*) meaning a sled or slej. "After much hunting in meni books," he sez, "this iz the first time I hav ever lighted upon really good authority for this word. The *o* and *u* are both short. The word must either be from Micmac, or from some dialect veri closely related to it."

Blizzard.—I hav often wondered that there should hav been so much discussion of the origin of the term "blizzard," az though it were new or far-fetched. I distinctly recollect having heard the expression "cold az blizzards" az a common phrase ever sins I was a child, and that means for more than fifti years; though I can not remember whether I first heard it in New England or in the West, whither I went at an early age. It iz not strange that a person on first experiencing the prairie storm, now known az the blizzard, should hav identified it with the typical cold with which he had been accustomed to hear other slightly les severe storms compared.—*W. H. Larrabee*.

[The recollection of my frend, Dr. Larrabee, shows that "blizzard," meaning a storm, haz a longer history in America than iz implied by Bartlett's defining it only az "a poser" thirty years ago, and in order to establish prior use in England a record running back more than half a century iz needed. The discussion of the word haz been continued in *The Athenaeum*:—Mr. James Bromley writes that, "This word comes to us through the Anglo-Saxon *Blesan*, to blow," to which are related blast, blazon, blare, etc. Another correspondent asserts that he heard it forty years ago, "long before it was taken up in America," and in a later letter sez that "the word iz more usually pronounced 'blizzer' in the States. It iz only in print that we see it az 'blizzard.'" If he had accused Americans of calling it *blizud* or *blizud* some of us would hav to plead gilty. Mr. H. Reed telz of the death of a mason whose name was Blizzard, in Taunton (a town of southwestern England), a few months ago. He was over sixty years old. But the nativity of blizzard iz apparently established by C. A. Ward, who

quotes the phrase, "blizzard and the drouth," from Shakspeare! Unfortunately on looking up the passage (Pericles, Act 3, l. 8), I find it generally printed "Az the blither for their drouth." After mentioning a number of related words Mr. Ward concludes, "Blizzard iz only one of the gang, and he iz true English to the backbone; but he haz come back freckled from America to us, and only the dog knows Ulysses again at hiz own fireside." This iz veri likely true, but it iz not yet proved.—EDITOR.]

—Mr. Brander Matthews contributes to the July *Harper's* a breezy eight page essay on "Britticisms and Americanisms," an extract from which I reprint. Mr. Matthews contends ably for the right of expressions used by good speakers of English in America, Australia or India to be counted az part of the English language even if they are not used in London. But he shows something beyond the courage of hiz convictions in using the colloquial word "finicky" whnen he might hav sed *finical*, and in saying "pernicketty," which iz not known to Webster even az a colloquialism. I venture to say that to ninety-nine percent of hiz readers "pernicketty" conveys no meaning without the context—and this makes it superfluous.

SPELING REFORM ROOMZ,

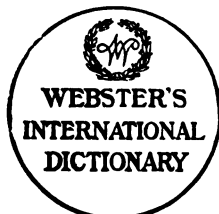
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[Phonetic Spelling Scheme No. 3.]

SPELLING OF THE SPELLING REFORM ASSOCIATION.

THE Spelling Reform Association has adopted six stages of partly reformed spelling, each of which, after the first, includes those preceding it. These stages, as given on the "Spelling Reform Leag" pledge, ar: 1. Use the simplified forms allowd by standard dictionaries, as *program*, *favor*, etc. 2. Use the Two Words: *tho*, *thru*. 3. Use the Ten Words: *tho*, *thru*, *wisht*, *catalog*, *definit*, *hav*, *giv*, *liv*, *gard*, ar. 4. Use the two Rules: 1. Use *f* for *ph* sounded as *f*, as in *alfabet*, *funtom*, *filosofy*, etc. 2. Use *t* for *d* or *ed* final sounded as *t*, as in *firt*, *tipt*, *stopt*, *clast*, *crost*, *distrest*, etc. 5. Use the Five Rules: 1 and 2 as in 4. 3. Drop *a* from digraf *ea* sounded as short *e*, as in *hed*, *helth*, *sted*, etc. 4. Drop silent *e* final in a short syllable, as in *hav*, *giv*, *liv*, *forbad*, *reptil*, *hostil*, *engin*, *infini*, *opposit*, *activ*, etc. 5. When a word ends with a dubl letter, omit the last, as in *eb*, *ad*, *stuf*, *stif*, *stuf*, *eg*, *shal*, *wil*, *tel*, *wel*, *dul*, *lul*, etc. 6. Use the 24 Joint Rules of the American and English Philological Associations. To the abuv is added, for future use,—7. Use all changes recommended by the Philological Associations.

The 24 Joint Rules just mentiond ar known to most of the readers of OUR LANGUAGE, hense they wil not be givn here. This articl which is speld in accordance with them, illustrates their use, and the Secretary of the Spelling Reform Association, Mr. Melvil Dewey, Univ. of the State of N. Y. Albany, N. Y., wil send a copy of the rules to any one who wants them. They include the Five Rules givn abuv, and five others of similar character, while the remaining fourteen consist of changes in particular words or lists of words. As the application of these rules is difficult, an alfabetic list of amended words has been made, and was published in the *Transactions of the American Philological Association* and reprinted in *Spelling* for October, 1887. No change that would obscure etymology has been included in the Joint Rules, while in many cases the historical spelling of words has been restored. And in applying the rules exceptions ar made in the cases of words very frequently used, or where the changed word would not be easily recognized, or would suggest a wrong sound.

The S. R. A. has also a Standard Fonetic Alfabet, for use in complete fonetic spelling, having adopted the alfabet prepared by a committee of the American Philological

Association. This alfabet recognizes eight short and eight long vowels, distinguishing the long from the short by the macron. Three new letters are added to the five vowel letters in the English alfabet, to represent the vowels in *pass* and *palm*, *not* and *nought*, and *but* and *burn*. This is the smallest number of new letters in any proposed fonetic alfabet that admits new letters at all. In representing the consonants six digraphs are used; *c* is preferred to *k*, but *k*, *q* and *x* are retained; the other letters remain as in the old alfabet. The following is the complete fonetic alfabet: a, α, b, c, ch, d, dh, e, f, g, h, i, j, (k), l, m, n, ng, o, o, p, (q), r, s, sh, t, th, u, v, w, (x), y, z, zh. The use of this alfabet has been illustrated in the publications of the S. R. A.

Geographic Names, Bulletin No. 2.—A second list of decisions of the U. S. Board on Geographic Names has been issued under the date 25 May, 1891. The following are some of the most widely used names in this list: (1) in the United States: Harrisburg, Pa., Marthas Vineyard, Mass. (not Martha's), Mohave, Ariz. and Calif. (not Mojave), Fort Monroe, Va. (not Fortress), Peedee River, S. C. (not Great Peedee), Pittsburg, Pa. (not burgh, "The siti was chartered in 1816, its name being speld without the *h*, and its official form is stil Pittsburg." Local usage is divided.) Uinta Mts., Utah (not -tah), Wasatch Range, Utah (not Wah-), Woods Holl, Mass. ("The name, which was originally Wood's Hole, was changed several years ago by the summer residents of the place to Wood's Holl."); (2) in foreign countries: Beirut, Syria (11 other forms are discarded), Bermuda (not -das), Cape Haitien (not Haytien nor Henry), Cape Verde (not Verd), Colon (not Aspinwall), Fuchau (not Foochow), Hawaiian Islands (not Sandwich), Kashmir (not Cashmere), Massaua (Massowah and 8 other forms discarded), Sind (not Scinde, nor Sindh, etc.), Tokyo (not Tokio nor Yeddo), and Yafa (not Yaffa, Jaffa, nor Joppa).

Nearly all these decisions make strongly for simplisiti and the true representation of the spoken words. But there is one class of changes that the Board is proposing which I fear will not be readily accepted. This is changing the possessive to the plural form in such names as Martha's Vineyard. There is no urgent demand for eni change, as in most of these cases there are no differing usages to

unify, and the decision of the Board only saves writing the apostrophe. If a change must be made, it would be better to drop the 's and say Martha Vineyard (compare the near by Elizabeth Islands), Governor Island, etc. This the Board has itself done in the case of Hudson Bay and River.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of OUR LANGUAGE.

Sir:—I fear you will no longer think me entitled to the praise you have accorded me for independent action in my departure from the traditional spelling of the preterite *redd*, when I tell you that I have not altogether acted, as you suppose, "without apology or explanation," and that, moreover, the need of reform in this particular is not an original observation of mine. In my "English Philology," § 192, I have given a sketch of my notions about Spelling Reform as they were some years ago, and I have referred to authorities in favour of this particular correction. I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

J. EARLE.

Swanswick Rectory, Bath,
22 June 1891.

SOUTHAMPTON, LONG ISLAND, }
June 22, 1891. }

MR. FREDERIK A. FERNALD,

Dear Sir:—From the extract from Mr. J. H. Long's "Slips of Tongue and Pen," on page 21 of OUR LANGUAGE for June, I learn that we should not use *remit* for *send*. Being one of your *practical* reformers, I should like to know what to use in place of *remit*. "Please send" is a wretched combination and will never do at the foot of a bill or statement, if we expect ever to hear from it. "Let us have your check" sounds vulgar and is far too imperative. I give it up. Next!

Yours very truly, A. K.

[For "Please remit" I would suggest "Payment is requested."—EDITOR.]

—The word *broker* runs back through the forms *brokour*, *brokeor*, to the old French *brocheor*, literally a *tapster* (broacher), who retailed wine from the tap (broach), and hence by extension eni retail dealer, or one who bought to sell again, a second hand dealer, or one who bought for another, hence a jobber, middleman, agent, etc.

Western Real Estate Rhetoric.—The consociation of Wichita's superior environments, the unity of her numerous local entitiz, in fact the harmony of all of her dominating influences and conserved advantages are once more, and in a marked manner, conspiring to force her to the front az one of the coming great interior sitiz of the Continent. —*Wichita (Kan.) Daily Eagle.*

Cash for Getting Subscribers.—To eni reader of this paragraph who wishes to collect subscriptions for OUR LANGUAGE, I make this offer. Send in the subscriptions one or more at a time az you get them, and keep the fifty sents that you receive from the fifth person az your commission. Your own subscription can be one of the five. Hwen you send the fifth name, write me also what four names you hav sent before. Do the same with each fifth subscription thereafter. P. O. Money Orders should be made payable at Station T, New York. I would rather hav postage stamps than checks for fifti sents.

NEW BOOKS ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

[From the numbers of *The Publishers' Weekly* (New York) and *The Publishers' Circular* (London) for the past month.]

Oliphant, T. L. Kington. The Old and Middle English. 2nd ed. 12mo. 26+612 p. \$2.00.

Smith, T. Berry. Studies in nature and language; lessons based on the theory that experience and expression should go hand in hand. 121 p. O. bds., 55 c.

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Eni book will be sent, post paid, on receipt of price by the publisher of OUR LANGUAGE. Write for special discount prices.

—*The Phonographic World* (New York) haz a spelling reform department, and a letter from a subscriber objecting to its continuance haz led to a lively discussion in the last three

numbers. Decided opinions both for and against hav been expressed and much interesting experience haz been brought out. The chief reason urged against the department iz that it iz useless and confusing to adult stenographers. This of course iz no objection to spelling reform in itself.

—The following curious document was found among the old receipted bilz of the State Treasurer of New Hampshire, and was published in the Littleton (N. H.) *Journal*:—

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DR.			
May 20	To one Day Cleaning Sullar,	- -	\$1 00
May 21	To Scowering State House myself,	- -	1 00
May 21	Same Day To paid two women for Scowering,	- -	1 00
May 22	To Scowering my Self 3 women,	- -	2 50
May 23	To 3 women with my Self Scowering,	- -	2 50
May 25	To 1 Day Scowering my Self 3 women,	- -	2 50
May 26	To one Day Scowering 2 women my Self,	- -	2 00
May 27	To one Day Scowering 5 women my Self,	- -	3 50
May 27	To 12 Gallons Soap at 25 cts for the above Scower,	- -	3 00

—A series of four vigorous and readable articles advocating the spelling reform haz been published in *The Iowa School Journal* beginning with the March number. They are by Prof. Stephen G. Barnes, of Iowa College, who takes az hiz general title "Is it Right to Spell Wrong?" and deals successively with (1) The Situation, (2) The Objections, (3) The Motives, (4) The Methods.

—OUR LANGUAGE haz arranged for exchanges in England (*The Phonetic Journal*, edited by Mr. Isaac Pitman,) and in France (*Le Maître Phonétique*, edited by M. Paul Passy,) and iz now in a position to giv the spelling-reform news in those countries. I expect to hav an exchange in Germany in a few weeks, and probably another in France.

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Celie Hastin

according to their taste by subsequent and wider reading at special points.

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Yours very truly,

GEO. W. ATHERTON, LL.D.,
Pres. Penn. State College.

March 31, 1891.

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VOL. 1.

AUGUST, 1891.

No. 5.

All articles, letters, and quotations are speld in the style of the paper, except those that are inserted as illustrations of particular phonetic schemes.

OLD WORDS TO YOUNG WRITERS.

BY ROSSITER JOHNSON.

[Editor of Appleton's Annual Cyclopaedia.]

A good style depends, first of all, upon a good choice of words. It iz not az necessary to possess a large vocabulary az it iz to make sure that such vocabulary az you may hav iz altogether legitimate. There iz much good writing in the daily newspapers, abounding in wit and wel turned sentensez; but their verbal offences are so numerous, so gross, and so persistent that they are in danger of permanently corrupting our common speech. If I call attention to a few of these, the reader wil doubtles be able to discover meni more.

It iz first an affectation, and then a vulgarism to transfer technical terms unnecessarily and topically to common speech. The most widely distributed instance of this iz the word "endorse." Undeterred by the disastrous results of careles endorsement, our people are now endorsing everything—sentiments, platforms, biznes and legislative action, the characters of men, their motives, their assertions, and the men themselfz. The only proper way to endorse a man iz to turn him around and with a piece of chalk write your name across hiz back, between the shoulders. You need not read far in the dictionary to find the word "approve." A book-keeper talks about the "balance" of an account; and people who are not book-keepers are forever using that word az if they thought it ment "remainder," which it does not. Do not write "party" hwen you

mean "person," and do not say that either the party or the person was "posted," hwen you mean "informed." You may be under the impression that two always make a couple; at least the newspapers would justify you in that belief. But two do not make a couple unles they belong together az a pair. There iz no such thing az a couple of weeks, or a couple of dollars, or couple of comets. Look into your English grammar and see what it sez about reflex pronouns, and after that never write "John and myself went a fishing," or "myself and Mrs. Smith took tea with our frendz." Do not be afraid to use the pronoun "I" where it properly belongs. Do not use the word "commence" unles you can tel what right it haz to be in our language at all, or what need we hav of it. Hwen misfortunes come thick upon you and you seem to be a victim of conspiring circumstances, do not, even in your moments of deepest dejection, permit yourself to complain of "hard lines," or even to look for better times "later on." Hwen you look at one of the meni monuments that commemorate our fellow sitizens who fel in the sivil war, you may ask what iz the position of the bronze soldier that surmounts it, and you wil be told that hiz position iz known az parade rest. But you should not talk about the "position" of prezident of Yale college, or the "position" of attorney-general, or the "position" of elevator boy in a hotel. And "situation" iz no better, though you find column after column of advertisements for "situations" in the metropolitan papers. Insted of either of these words, the correct term iz "place" "office," or "employment."

Beware of unnecessary words. Do not write "the house iz situated by the river," and "the school iz located on a hil." Write "the house iz by the river," and "the school iz on a hil." A litl thought wil show you the distinction between the needful and the needles use of these two words. Do not say "the rope was a long one," and "the argument was a strong one." Say "the rope was long," and "the argument was strong." Do not say "the lumber was for bilding purposes," and "the fuel was for cooking purposes," one may, perhaps, bild hiz purposes, but it iz unfortunate to hav them cooked. Some expressions that are allowable, and even admirable, hwen used originally become vapid, if not vulgar, hwen repeated for the thousandth time. A good instance of this may be seen in the expression "craning the neck."

Hwen a writer haz learned to choose hiz words az carefully az he should choose hiz frendz, hiz next task iz to discover the method of putting them in proper order.—*From the Delta Upsilon Quarterly.*

THE PRINCETON MEETING OF THE S. R. A.

The sixteenth annual meeting of the Spelling Reform Association was held in accordance with the following notice:

The Annual Business Meeting of the Spelling Reform Association, for the election of officers and receiving reports, will be held at Princeton, N. J., at 3 p. m. on July 9, 1891, at the close of the meeting of the American Philological Association.

Arrangements have been made to continue the publication of SPELLING. Copy has been prepared and No. 5 will shortly be mailed to members. The reform is making stedy progress, but we ar greatly embarast for lack of funds and shal be grateful for such contributions as members can make.

MELVIL DEWEY, *Secretary.*

The President, Dr. F. A. March, presided. The attendance was small, but larger than that of the last meeting. The Recording Secretary not being prezent, Dr. C. P. G. Scott was elected and served az Secretary *pro tem.* The report sent by the Treasurer was red, and showed a balance from last year of \$100.96; receipts of the year \$5.00 (the bilz for 1891 had not been sent out); expenditures, \$3.50. Just before the meeting, Prof. Sidney G. Ashmore, of Schenectady, and I. P. McCurdy, D. D., of Philadelphia, had joined the Association. A copy of "A Sound-English Primer," sent by the author, Mr. Augustin Knoflach, was laid before the meeting by the Secretary, and examined by the members. Dr. Scott, az Corresponding

Secretary and a member of the Publication Committee, made an oral report stating that the publication of the quarterly, SPELLING, was about to be resumed, the preparation of No. 5 being nearly completed. He had received the usual number of letters of inquiry during the year and had furnished information and documents to the writers. He thought that what the S. R. A. needed most was a salaried Permanent Secretary, who should devote all or a large part of hiz time to spelling-reform work. The reform was slowly spreading and he believed that such an officer could secure a large number of members in all parts of the country—enough so that their dues at \$1.00 a year would pay the Secretary's salary, and furnish money for the general work of the Association.

The following were then re-elected officers for the ensuing year: *President*, Francis A. March, LL. D., L. H. D.; *Vice Presidents*, W. D. Whitney, LL. D., L. H. D., W. T. Harris, LL. D., H. L. Wayland, D. D., C. K. Nelson, D. D., J. M. Garnett, LL. D., John L. Johnson, LL. D., J. C. Gilchrist; *Secretary*, Melvil Dewey, A. M., University of the State of New York, Albany, N. Y.; *Treasurer*, Charles E. Sprague, 1271 Broadway, New York; *Finance Committee*, Prof. W. B. Owen, Prof. T. W. Hunt, and C. M. Bergstresser; *Publication Committee*, Melvil Dewey, F. A. March, and C. P. G. Scott. Dr. Scott declined a re-election az Corresponding Secretary, and the office was merged into that of the Secretary.

Mr. F. A. Fernald then asked if the Association would giv him an answer to the communication that he had adrest to it some weeks before, proposing that the S. R. A. subscribe for enough copies of OUR LANGUAGE to send one to each of its members. He was firmly convinced that if this were done the attention of all the members would be kept more closely upon the work of reform, and that some would be better satisfied to continue paying their dues if they received some personal return for a part of the money and were kept informed of the doings of the Association. He believed that it would bring more money into the treasury than it would take out. In reply the Secretary stated that the accounts for the numbers of SPELLING alredi published were not yet closed, and that the money now in the treasury was needed for continuing that magazine.

The meeting then adjourned. The time and place of the next meeting wil be fixed az usual by the Executive Committee.

SPECIAL FEATURES OF STORMONTH'S
DICTIONARY.

BY FREDERIK A. FERNALD.

To describe Stormonth's Dictionary in the fewest possible words it may be called a dictionary of high grade and moderate bulk. It is a product of thorough English scholarship in the field of lexicography. It was compiled by the Rev. James Stormonth, and first published in 1871. After the death of the author its pronunciation was revised by the Rev. P. H. Phelps, M. A. *Cantab.*, and it was reissued in enlarged form, in both England and America during the year 1884. This lexicon has a distinctive character, the most conspicuous feature of which is the grouping of obviously related words in one paragraph, under a leading word. For example, in the paragraph under "access" we find nine derivatives of this word, among them being "accessible," "accession" and "accessary" (-sory); the phrases "accession to the crown," "accessory before the fact," and "accessory after the fact" are explained, and synonyms of "accession" are given. This arrangement saves much space by avoiding repetitions. Where such grouping throws a word too far out of its alphabetical place to be found easily, a cross-reference is inserted at that place; for example, "abundance, abundant, &c.—see under abound."

In making up the vocabulary, local words and recently coined scientific and industrial terms were diligently sought out, and a goodly proportion of words now obsolete, but occurring in early English authors, was included. Obviously this work does not contain as many words as dictionaries of twice or five times its size, but the words omitted are largely such as a person of wide reading can go through life without meeting outside of a dictionary, or are mere negatives, compounded of *dis-*, *un-*, *mis-*, *re-*, or *-les*, such as Richard Grant White would not have in his popular word-book. Stormonth's Dictionary gives the pronunciation of English as it is spoken by cultivated persons in England, but it does not go into fine distinctions. Thus the final *a* of "alpaca" is not distinguished from the first and second. Words are respelled for pronunciation, all the vowels and the accent being marked, and are divided into syllables. Etymologies are given briefly, and the definitions are also brief, but sufficient except for the exactions of critical study. There is no effort for numbers of definitions.

Common words, for which no person to

whom English is the mother-tongue ever consults a dictionary, are given as briefly as possible, and room is thus saved for full explanations of words which embody a historical or scientific fact or a literary allusion.

A particularly happy stroke for these days of controversy is the defining of Adam as "the first man mentioned in Genesis"—no one can deny a word of that.

The words to be defined are printed in heavy-faced type, and are not capitalized unless they are proper names or derivatives of them. The page is slightly larger than that of *OUR LANGUAGE* and the volume has about the thickness of the large French and English, and German and English lexicons. There are four appendixes to the work, which contain (1) a list of prefixes and affixes, (2) a list of abbreviations, (3) a copious selection of phrases and sentences from foreign languages found in English books, and (4) the proper names in the Scriptures with their pronunciations.

—Considering the present meaning of the words, it seems strange that there should be a relationship between *bombast* and *bombazine*. *Bombast*, which is now applied only to inflated language, meant formerly raw cotton, and cotton-wool used as padding. "It hath no bumbast now, but skin and bones."—*Gascoigne*, 1575. A form of the word now obsolete is *bombace*; this is an old French word derived from the late Latin *bombax* (cotton, *i. e.* tree silk), which is a corruption of *bombyx* (silk) adopted into Latin from Greek. *Bombazine* is from the French *bombasin*, and Latin *bombycinum* (silken), which likewise comes from *bombyx*.

— By the death of the prominent German educator, Dr. Friedrich Wilhelm Fricke, which occurred in Wiesbaden, 28th March, the cause of orthographic reform in Germany lost an able and scholarly leader. In 1876 he organized the "General Union for Simplifying Spelling," whose influence brought about the ministerial decree of 1880 in Prussia, making partly amended spelling obligatory for all schools. The other German governments afterward adopted the same rules, as did the Austrian. The complete scheme of phonetic German spelling for which the Union worked is described in Dr. Fricke's "*Die Orthographie*," etc., (Kühnemann, Bremen, 1876). At his death Dr. Fricke was in his eighty-first year.

AN APPEAL TO ACTIVE SPELLING REFORMERS.

Willing spirits often relax their efforts in behalf of reform for lack of an occasional reminder concerning the work in hand. The bravest, also, are liable to lose courage unless cheery messages and news of progress come to them sometimes from their fellow-workers in other places. It is intended that these needs in the case of spelling reformers shall be supplied by the regular monthly publication of *OUR LANGUAGE*. Confident that the paper could be of service in this way, I applied to the Spelling Reform Association to subscribe for copies for all its members, and received the reply that the S. R. A. had no funds to spare from its other work. I now, therefore, at the suggestion of Dr. Charles P. G. Scott, appeal to individual members to make up the desired subscription. Some of the members have already subscribed for themselves, but there remain about 200 who have not. These ought to have the current news and other useful reform matter put in their hands every month, and it can be done if twenty persons will subscribe for ten copies each of *OUR LANGUAGE* at club rates (\$4), and authorize me to send nine of the ten to non-subscribers. Who will be of the twenty? Mr. Melvil Dewey is entitled to head the list as he subscribed for ten copies at the start, and has since authorized me to use the extra ones in this way. Dr. Scott, too, has subscribed for ten copies. Subscriptions of \$2 for five copies will also be gladly received. Members who have already sent me the price of one copy or more can join in the club subscription by sending the sum needed to make up \$4 or \$2, and bidding me use their extra copies as above. Members who will take single copies for themselves will thereby lessen the number to whom the paper is to be given. The new subscriptions will begin with the present number, which is sent to every member of the S. R. A. Those who doubted on seeing the first number whether *OUR LANGUAGE* would be useful, or even live, should be freed from their doubts on seeing No. 5. The paper will continue to be issued regularly for the rest of this year, even if I have to pay \$200 toward its expenses out of my own pocket, and if the subscriptions now asked for are obtained there is no doubt that it will be permanent. This is an excellent chance to establish a spelling-reform periodical that shall not die young. It needs only a little temporary fostering to bring it through the perils of infancy. The editor and pub-

lisher has specially good facilities for conducting the paper, being familiar with editorial work and the business of publishing a large magazine, and being situated at the business center of the United States. His time, experience, and earnestness are placed at your service. Will you avail yourselves of them?

Dr. March has kindly expressed his approval of the above appeal as follows:

DEAR MR. FERNALD:

I hope you may receive subscriptions at once to enable you to send *OUR LANGUAGE* to all the members of the Spelling Reform Association. I am much interested in it, and I think it will help *Spelling*, the quarterly of the Association, as well as promote the reform in general.

Yours truly,

F. A. MARCH,

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE, July 28, 1891.

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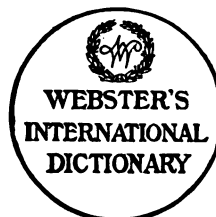
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Phonetic Spelling Scheme No. 4.

DIACRITIC MARKS.

BY MRS. ELIZA B. BURNZ.

[Spelt with the Anglo-American Alphabet.]

In "A Descriptive List of International Novels," issued at Cambridge, Mass., Mr. W. M. Griswold, the author and publisher, has given substanshal ade tu speling reform. In this octāvo pamflet ov sixty-fōr pājes, dubl colum, ar found the fōlōing vāriashunz from the ordinary orthografy.

1. *Ph* iz ūniformly chānjd tu *f*; e. g. "fotograf, atmosfere, triumf, emfasize," etc.

2. Useles *gh* iz elimināted from all wurdz, and the mark, *˘*, plāst ōver the presēding vowel-leter tu denote its comon long sound; the rezulting print bēing, "hī (high), hīt, sī sīt, nī, nīt, rīt, līt, slīt," etc., with derivativz and compoundz, az; "hīer, hī-bred, līttest, rītly, insīt, well-nī, fortnīt," etc.

3. Uther vowel-leterz beside *i* hav diacritic marks, az; "ōt, (ought), bōt, thōt, wrōt," thus avoiding the obnoxious *gh*; ā, iz uzed in "lāf, lāfter," and ē in "wē (weigh), wēt, outwē, nēborhood," for the same purpus. *Gh* iz ālso omited from "dauter, taut, hauty, nautiness," etc.

4. Few spelingz ar chānjd, exept by the omishun ov sūperflūus, leterz, az; "marid, marying, forein, dialog;" tho "vue" and "enuf" apeer; an exchānj ov leterz bēing made.

5. Wurdz derived from the namez ov cuntryz, az; "english, russian," etc., doo not begin with capital leterz, az iz customary.

Mr. Griswold's pamflet iz ov speshal interest, becauz it cleerly endorsez the method ov indicāting the long vowel-soundz by markt leterz. This mode ov distīguishing vowel-soundz haz not reseevd due considera-shun from meny advocates ov simplified speling. The fundamental prinsipl ov Anglo-American speling iz, that eech sound ov the English language shal be represented by the siŋgl leter or digraf that mōst frēquently denotes that sound in the comon orthografy. Since the short vowel-soundz, herd in "at, egg, it, on, up," ocur ofenest, the five vowel-leterz *a, e, i, o, u*, unmarkt, ar uzed for them; and the *u* sound in "put," and the long vowel soundz in "mate, mete, mite, mode, mute," ar denōted by the markt leterz *ā, ē, ī, ō, ū*; or, tu avoid the trubl ov rīting meny diacritic mārks, and to prezerv a gārter likenes tu the ordinary print, the mute *e* iz employd,

WHICH EDUCATIONAL JOURNAL IS BEST?

Opinions of a few who ought to know:

G. STANLEY HALL, PH. D., LL. D., President Clark University, etc.—I regard "The Teacher" as one of the very best educational journals in the country, and should be tempted to say, were not comparisons odious, the *very* best for its price.

W. T. HARRIS, LL. D., National Commissioner of Education, etc.—I have had occasion often to mark the high order of merit which your periodical has attained among American journals of education.

JEROME ALLEN, PH. D., Professor of Pedagogy, Univ. of the City of N. Y., etc.—It has always taken very high ground, and its editorials and comments have been carefully written. Thoughtful teachers have read its articles with great profit.

E. D. SHIMER, Ph. D., University School of Pedagogy.—The convenient form and typographical excellence of "The Teacher" first attracted me. Its valuable contributions of educational thought have since then held me.

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eether before or after a final consonant, az a lengthener ov eny preseding vowel. For the prezent, the equivalent leterz *c*, *g*, and *x*, ar alowd tu remain, and tu be employd under rule; and uther leterz, in serten pozishunz, becum equivalents.

The Anglo-American speling iz substan-shaly fonetic; fuly az much so az the German, which haz digrafs and the sound ov leterz varyd bȳ pozishun. The eze with which the print and script ov this method can be desiferd, bȳ ordinary reederz, iz wun ov its cheef recomendashunz; and, in this respect, it iz far sȳperior tu uther planz for fonetic speling. It duz away with the need ov lerning tu spel in the ordinary manner for the purpos ov making a lejibl script, and iz the ȳnly fonetic method which pȳts its pȳpils, whether children or adults, intu imȳdiate comȳnicashun with the biznes wurd, bȳ meenz ov a script that can be red without difficulty bȳ non-fonetic personz.

The fȳl alfabet, with rulez for its use, and reezonz shȳing the need for such a print and script, wil be sent on aplicashun tu the Speling Reform Roomz, 24 Clinton Place, New York. Correspondence and critisizm welcumd.

NEEDLES JOININGS OF ADJECTIVE AND NOUN.

BY F. HORACE TEALL.

There iz in English literature a common tendensi toward the use of specialized and shortened expressions, veri often involving a collocation of words which may properly be placed together only in joint form; and while such breviti in meni instances imparts a certain strength and beauty to language, it iz at least reasonable to suggest that almost az frequently the reverse method iz better. Eni-thing more than a mere suggestion of this—that iz, eni general exemplification or argument—would be foreign to the purpose here. There iz a phase of this subject, however, which iz perfectly germane, namely, the probability that, while the fact of arbitrary collocation iz often not acknowledged by compounding, meni joinings which are utterly needles, if not actually improper, owe their existence to a certain specious reasoning too hastily credited. The commonest fallacy, and the one leading to the most infelicitous results, iz the idea that hwen an adjective and a noun are used together specifically they should be joined az a compound noun; the peculiar difficulty in the case being due to an indication of logic which iz in conflict with grammar. * * *

"Chief-justice" and "high-priest" are givn az compounds in most dictionaries, and are often so printed in other books. In a prominent magazine "Chief-Justice" in one line was actually followed by "Associate Justice" in the next line. Each of these terms iz used az a specific title, and iz thus logically but one name; and this must be the reason why some people make them compound words. They are generally defined as "chief judge" and "chief priest," names of identical construction, yet givn each az two words, probably because they are considered az slightly more general in application; but az a matter of fact the latter two names are sometimes az special az the first two. * * *

Meni names composed of an adjective and a noun are compounded in dictionaries and also in other books, undoubtedly for no other reason but that the thing spoken of iz not of the kind which the noun properly names. Notwithstanding the fact that such a reason goes far toward the justification of forms like "half-dime," "forearm," etc., it may stil be shown that arbitrary application of the noun iz not in itself a sufficient indication of compounding in form. "Black-led" iz one of the commonest erroneous joinings of its kind, and probably no one would defend it on eni ground other than the fact that what it names iz not led. * * *

"Sweet-potato" iz a common form which may wel illustrate the objection to such compounding, while "black-bass," "scarlet-fever," "live-oak," and other forms like them show essentially the same error, and are amenable to the same objection. The mistake in regard to the potato iz due to the fact that the sweet potato iz not the same kind of tuber az that now known by the unqualified name "potato," this fact giving rise to the fallacious idea that it iz not a potato at all. Now, the name "potato" (az *batata*) was actually givn to the tuber now called, "sweet potato" before the Irish potato was so called, and it was only hwen the latter became veri common that the former began to be distinguished by the adjective "sweet." * * *

People who consider "black-bass" a proper compound say that it iz so because the fish iz not a bass. "Bass" itself, however, iz a corruption of "barse," which iz used in some parts of England az the name of the fish commonly called "perch;" and this corrupted name iz used alone for a fish resembling the perch, while a qualifying or specifying word iz aded to the name for another similar fish. The name "barse" iz simpli the original

English name of the perch. * *

* * "Black led" and "black bass" represent adequately just what is understood in hearing the names, as well as men of the same kind which are never compounded, as, for instance, "false wintergreen," "false window," "false egg," and innumerable others with "false."

The natural conclusion is that every term exactly similar to one of those above discussed is properly two words, no matter how closely they may be associated logically.—*From "The Compounding of English Words."*

QUERIES.

2.—British spelling. (Answer.) Mr. Henry R. Boss sends me the following:

BRITISH.	AMERICAN.
baptise, recognise, and men other words with the same ending.	baptize, recognize, etc.
skilful	skillful
wilful	willful
forme (typog.)	form
fount (")	font
py or pie (")	pi
cancelled	canceled
marvellous	marvelous
saleable, desireable,	salable, desirable, etc.

Mr. Boss has found in an English periodical "shewn" for "shown," and in the same column "showcase."

To the above may be added an instance that Mr. C. E. Sprague has given me, namely, cheque check

Mr. Sprague also mentioned the class of words ending in -ize.

"Endorse," "People," and "Alternative."—A new subscriber gives me a little friendly criticism which may be helpful to some of my readers. He asks: "Is it right to use 'endorsed' for 'approved,' [O. L. p. 3, col. 2.] and 'people' for 'persons' [P. 8, col. 1.] In the article 'C versus K,' is it correct to say 'there are only two alternatives' [P. 26, col. 2.]—Is *c* an alternative and *k* another? I think not. The alternative is the choice between these two letters—one choice, one alternative."

I admit that it is better to use "approved" than "endorsed" in the sense of sanctioned. Mr. Rossiter Johnson states this point very decidedly in his article in this number, but I do not agree with him and my critic in condemning this use of "endorse" utterly.

The word comes from the low Latin *indorsare*, the root of which is *dorsum*, back;

hens, I regard its use in the sense of approve as a figurative extension very similar to the use of "backing" to express moral support when it does not mean actually standing behind a man. Moreover, the "International" Webster (which, by the way, says that the tendency in spelling is toward the form "indorse") gives as a secondary definition of this word, "To give one's name or support to; to sanction; to aid by approval; to approve; as, to indorse an opinion."

In using the phrase "men cultivated people," I stand convicted of carelessness. I shall be more vigilant in future.

My use of "alternative," however, is completely justified by the "International," in which it is defined not only as a choice, but also as either of two things offered to one's choice.

—In the "Required Reading" of the C. L. S. C. for the year just closed, published in *The Chautauquan*, was a series of "Practical Talks on Writing English," by Prof. William Minto, of the University of Aberdeen. There were five papers, the last being published in the June number, and on account of their conversational style and practical character they are admirably adapted to help students of English composition.

NEW BOOKS ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

[From the numbers of *The Publishers' Weekly* (New York) and *The Publishers' Circular* (London) for the past month.]

Bowen, H. C.—English Literature Teaching in Schools: Two Lectures, with Examples. 12mo. pp. 54, 50 cents.

Bryce's Thumb English Dictionary, 64mo., 50 cents.

Mayhew, A. L.—Synopsis of the Old English Phonology: being a Systematic Account of Old English Vowels and Consonants, and their correspondences in the Cognate Languages. Post 8vo. pp. 322, \$2.25.

Murray, J. A. H.—A New English Dictionary on Historical Principles. Part 6. 4to., \$3.25.

Nisbet, C. and D. Lemon.—Everybody's Writing-desk Book: Have I used the Right Word? Have I Spelled it Correctly? Is the Sentence Grammatical? Is it correct in Style? Is it Punctuated correctly? contains also Forms of Addresses, English, French, and German, &c. 16mo. pp. 302, 35 cents.

Paul, H.—Principles of the History of Language. Revised edit. 8vo. pp. 500, \$3.

Eni book will be sent, post paid, on receipt of price by the publisher of OUR LANGUAGE. Write for special discount prices.

C VERSUS K

In choosing between *c* and *k* an important consideration is the change that will be made in the appearance of words and of the printed page. Pitman's spelling has an almost foreign look, not because *k* is a foreign letter, but because of its unfamiliar frequency. In a small dictionary now at hand the words beginning with *K* fill two pages; those beginning with *C* fill forty-five. Deducting the pages given to words that begin with the *s* sound, and those that begin with *ch* there are left thirty-nine pages of hard-*c* words against two pages of *k* words.

((What though English be more Teutonic than Romanic in character, it is more Romanic than Teutonic in its vocabulary of words affected by substitution of *k* for *c* hard. Is not this a particular for careful consideration? How copious is our vocabulary in words compounded with *com-*, *con-*, *contra-*. Can we conquer prejudice conceived and born of classical custom in this class of words?))

In fifty consecutive lines hard *c* occurs as an intermediate and as a final letter seventeen times, and *k* twice. The words are *mistake* and *thinking*. To print them *mistac* and *thincing* would look a little strange: to print all the hard-*c* words with *k* would make the whole page look strange.

Of the two dictionary pages of *K* words half are *Kn* words in which, in our pronunciation, *K* is silent. Phonetically spelt they would begin with *N*. Of familiar and frequent *K* words seriously affected by the substitution of *C*, *calendar* can not be regarded as one, since all persons are better acquainted

with *calendar*. The words *kennel* (*L. canis*), and *kitten*, (*cat, L. catulus*), would be brought into plainer etymological association. *Kine* would show its relation to *cow*. *Keep* would be slowly recognized as *cip*, *kettle* as *cetl*, *key* as *ci*, *kick* as *cic*, *kin* and *kind* as *cin* and *caind*, *king* as *cing*, yet in all these words from the Saxon, *c* would be a restoration; and they are among the words that would be most disguised by the change from *k* to *c*. They show the worst of it.

Seeking the phonetic alphabet "of least resistance," I am in favor of *c* until better informed.

J. H. K.

[Has any reader a reply to make to the above?—EDITOR.]

In one of the "Bulletins" of the S. R. A. of a few years ago you will find extracts from *Brain*, giving the results of researches into the legibility of letters by scientists, according to which *c* is almost the least legible letter of the alphabet. This agrees with your experience, as stated in "C versus K," towards the end of p. 26, in OUR LANGUAGE. A. K.

[The Bulletin is No. 22, Sept. 1886, and the investigator whose paper is there quoted is Dr. J. McK. Cattell. According to his experiments with the small letters, *k* stands 2d and *c* 25th in legibility (*s* being the last of all.) Among the capitals the order of all is much different; here *K* stands 6th and *C* 17th, the least legible being *E*.—EDITOR.]

— The four subscribers who have not yet paid their subscriptions are respectfully requested to do so now.

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SEPTEMBER, 1891.

No. 6.

The words speld phonetically in OUR LANGUAGE are those upon whose *final forms* all spelling-reformers agree. No transitional spellings are used. The editor believes that adopting a more radical policy before the way iz prepared would seriously injure the usefulness of the paper.

All articles, letters, and quotations are speld in the style of the paper, except those that are inserted az illustrations of particular phonetic schemes.

THE PUBLISHERS AND THE SPELLING-REFORM.

One of the requisites to effecting a change in the accepted order of things iz that the movement shall not be antagonized by eni great commercial interest. The one branch of mercantile biznes that would be largely affected by the adoption of reformed spelling iz the making of books and periodicals. Judging from experience with other changes in commercial and industrial methods the disturbance would probably be much les and the adjustment to the new conditions much easier than meni persons now suppose. One cry that haz been raised by opponents of spelling-reform iz that it would make all the books now in existence useles. If this were true, nothing better could befall the publishers, for they would be givn an imens amount of biznes in supplying new editions of standard authors in phonetic spelling. But it iz only true with respect to a few books, such as dictionaries, and elementary school-books. Suppose the change should be accomplished within the next five years. We who hav been using the old spelling all our lives would not forget how to read it on account of adopt- ing the new. The old frendz on our shelvz would be almost az valuable az before and

would not be lightly thrown aside. Az for the children who learned to read in the new spelling, hwen they had advanst so far in their studies that they needed to use old books they would not find it much of a tax to learn the old spelling, (*after* having learned phonetic spelling). "Our prezent books," sez Prof. Sayce, "would present no greater difficulties to the ordinary reader than the poems of Spenser do now. Indeed the difficulties would be far les, sins they would contain no, obsolete or unknown words, such az make the task of studying the works of Spenser or Chaucer doubly hard." Three-fourths of the next generation would never hav to take even this litl trouble; the new text-books, newspapers, current magazines, new novels, new editions of the poets, and other reading matter fresh from the pres would supply all their wants. How often does the ordinary man hav occasion to read a volume that was put in type before he learned to read? Let eni reader of this article take down from hiz shelvz the books that he actually uses and see how meni are az old az he iz. Even the electrotpe plates now in existence would not be made worthles all at once. They could probably be used for nearly the period of their natural life to print books for that sort of persons who never giv up the ways of their youth and who would resist the new spelling til death.

It must be acknowledged that the period of transition would be troublesome for publishers az wel az for everyone else. Compositors and proofreaders would lose considerable time in the first few weeks that they worked on phonetic matter; larger quantities

of certain sorts of type would hav to be bought, and if new letters were adopted those sorts must be be bought also, and the type foundry must be givn time to cast them. The cost of new sorts, lower case and capitals, in all the sizes and styles of type used in a large printing office, iz an important matter. It can be ascertained exactly, and can not be lesnd by argument. Different modes of phonetic spelling employ from three to sixteen new letters, and one that haz just come to hand uses over twenti. The publishers wil naturally resist eni change that requires them to increase by from ten to fifti percent their amount of capital locked up in the form of type-metal. But some of the ways proposed for reforming the English spelling do not call for new letters, and we may expect the publishers to become advocates of one of these in order to prevent the adoption of a more expensive scheme.

After the change iz accomplished, the publishers wil find themselvz enjoying both the general benefits that it wil bring to all, and the special benefits that it wil confer upon them. The riddance of all conflicts and uncertainties in spelling wil be a much greater boon to printers and publishers than it wil to almost eni other class. Furthermore the general use of simpl spelling would cause an actual increase in the sales of books. For, sins learning to read English would be much easier than now, the illiterates and all the immigrants would learn, and the demand for books would consequently increase.

Another result of importance to publishers iz that there would be a *saving in the cost of all type-setting varying from five to fifteen percent* according az a moderate or a thorough revision of spelling were made. A book of 500 pages in the prezent spelling would

be shortened by 25 to 75 pages; the cost of electrotyping these pages would be saved, there would be from one to four les forms to put through the pres, and there would be a saving in paper. One computation makes the saving sevn percent from dropping silent letters, without substituting singl letters for digraphs. What the gross result of even this saving would be iz shown in the following paragraph from a recent article by John Storer Cobb, in *The Sunday School Times* :

"It iz computed that a book which at prezent haz 500 pages would require, with such elimination, but 465; and if it cost \$2,000 to electrotype and print an edition, \$140 would be saved by doing it in the new way. Now, if we in a year produce books to the value of \$20,000,000, which iz probably a low estimate, we should, during that time, save \$1,400,000 merely by the elimination of useles letters. This iz a serious item of expenditure, but it iz only a small portion of that which would be saved. In addition to books, we hav in this country meni thousands of daily and weekly papers, besides monthlies and quarterlies and other publications, which, in the aggregate, cost an almost incalculable amount of money. This may be roughly estimated at four times that which haz been already stated, or \$80,000,000; and eni one can see at once that a saving of sevn percent on this wil giv the sum of \$5,600,000. Even this iz but a small portion of the actual loss which our prezent method entails. Matter iz rita, and frequently manutyped, before it finds its way into the compositors' hand; to say nothing of that which iz so prepared and iz doomed to the wastepaper basket."

In order that the readers of OUR LANGUAGE may hav an actual example of this saving in common reading matter before them I giv herewith a passage from a novel both in the prezent spelling and in a mode of phonetic spelling without new letters, in paralel columns. The passage iz from "We Two," by Edna Lyall, Chapter 24.

NOTE.—In the phonetic version accents are omitted where there iz no danger of mispronunciation.

She chattered on while Erica unpacked and put on her white serge, then they went down to the drawing-room, where Erica was introduced to her host, a small elderly man, who looked as if the Indian sun had partially frizzled him. He received her kindly but with a sort of ceremonious stiffness which made her feel less perfectly at her ease than before, and after the usual remarks about the length of the journey, and the beauty of the weather he relapsed into silence, surveying every one from his arm-chair as though he were passing mental judgment on every foolish or trifling remark uttered. In reality he was taking in every particular about Erica. He looked at her broad forehead, overshadowed by the thick smooth waves of short auburn hair; observed her golden brown eyes which were just now as clear as amber; noted the creamy whiteness and delicate coloring of her complexion, which indeed defied criticism—even the criticism of such a critical man as Mr. Fane-Smith. The nose was perhaps a trifle too

Shi chaturd on hwail Erika unpakt and püt on hur hwait surj, then dhé went daun tu dhi droing-rüm, hwär Erika woz introduist tu hur host, a smöl eldurli man, hu lükt az if dhi Indiän sun had par-shäli frizld him. Hî risived hur kaindli but widh a sort ov seremœniüs stifnes hwich mêd hur fil les purfektli at hur iz dhan bifer, and äftur dhi yuzhñäl rîmarks äbaut dhi length ov dhi jurni, and dhi biuti ov dhi wedhur hî rilakst intu sailens, survêing evuri wun from hiz arm-chär az dhœ hî wur päsing mentäl jujments on evuri fûlish or traifing rîmark uturd. In rialiti hî woz têking in evuri partikiular äbaut Erika. Hî lükt at hur bröd fored, œvurshadœd bai dhe thik smûdh wêvz ov short ôburn hår; obzurvd hur gûlden braun aiz hwich wur just nau az klîr az ambur; notœd dhi krîmi hwaitnes and deliket kuloring ov hur komplekshun, hwich indid difaid kriticism—îvn dhi kritisizm ov such a kritikäl man as Mr. Fane-Smith. Dhi nœz woz purhaps a traifl th

In this case, twenti lines become nineteen, five persent being saved.

With schemes of phonetic spelling that use a single new letter in place of the digraphs *th, sh, ng*, etc., the saving iz greater. Mr. Charles A. Story, of Chicago, puts it at fifteen persent az a result of actual tests. Mr. Henry R. Boss, of Chicago, a printer of over forty years' experience, answers my application for an estimate az follows:

"I hav just counted 51 lines of solid minion in this morning's *Tribune*, and find, allowing one letter each for *ch, th, sh, ng*, etc., that 270 letters would hav been saved in 1122 ems. Allowing two letters to the em (the usual allowance iz $2\frac{1}{2}$, but that includes points, spaces, etc., all thin types), there would be a saving of 135 ems, or about twelv persent. In leded or displayed matter, of course, the saving would be considerably les."

—I often hear in New York, and suppose the same are common in meni other seaports, astonishing statements in regard to baggage being piled on the docks, or persons being seen sitting on the docks fishing!—astonishing, in view of the fact that a dock iz the *space* between two wharves or piers, and hens must be a veri poor place to deposit baggage, and must afford a decidedly damp and unsubstantial seat for a fisherman.

The S. R. A. Subscriptions.—I fear that August, being a vacation month, was a bad time to issue my "Appeal" for subscriptions to send OUR LANGUAGE to the non-subscribing members of the Spelling Reform Association. Only one response haz been received—from Mr. C. W. Knudsen. I therefore call attention again to this matter now that the vacations are over, hoping that a sufficient number of persons may be moved to contribute \$4.00 or \$2.00 in the way explained more fully last month.

SPELLING REFORM AT TORONTO.

At the union meeting of the school teachers of the United States and Canada, held in July, the report of a special committee on spelling-reform was presented. From a full account of the proceedings in the *Toronto Globe* I take the main facts. The committee consisted of H. W. Brewster, chairman, Wm. Houston, of Toronto, and T. R. Vickroy, of St. Louis. The report of the committee was in the form of an able paper red by the chairman. It advised the formation of an international organization for carrying out language reform, and az preliminary steps pro-

posed (1) to invite the National Editorial Association and the National Chautauqua Assembly each to name a committee to co-operate with that of the Educational Association; (2) to authorize the committee to publish a pamphlet on spelling reform, and to determine the practicability of calling an international convention on spelling reform in Chicago, in 1893. Mr. Vickroy red a paper dealing with the details of phonetic spelling. The subject was discussed by Messrs. T. M. Marshall, H. H. Lincoln, of Boston, Wm. Houston, and Dr. Z. Richard. On motion of Mr. Stephenson the report was referred to the Board of Directors to determine if the necessary money for printing could be supplied.

Economy in Printing.—In the report of the Pennsylvania Commission, made in April, 1889, the saving in expenditure for paper and printing, from the use of simplified spelling, iz calculated at sevnteen persent. I hav tested this computation by comparing the number of letters in some pages of "World-English" and some ordinary typography; and I find a difference in favor of the phonetic letters of one in sevn, or a litl over fourteen persent in the number of types. Adding the values of labor and paper this calculation wil amount to veri nearly the same az that in the report. This economy can not be considered unimportant, hwen we reflect that we now waste nearly one column in six in our newspapers, one page in six in our magazines, and one volume in six in all our works of literature. In hand-writing and type-writing, also, for every six letters that we really require, we hav the trouble of writing at least sevn.—*From an adres to Congress by Alexander Melville Bell.*

— In the report of the meeting of the S. R. A. in my August number the name of Francis J. Child, Ph.D., L.H.D., should hav been included in the list of Vice-Prezidents.

Our Language Book Club.—Every one who subscribes for OUR LANGUAGE becomes thereby a member of Our Language Book Club, and iz entitled to buy books of all kinds and to subscribe for other periodicals at clubbing rates of discount. I hav no space to giv particulars, but it wil be worth while to use your membership. No charge for postage on books. All Club orders and inquiries must be adrest to

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A SPESIMEN OF SOUND-ENGLISH.

SOUTHAMPTON, LONG ISLAND,
June 22, 1891.

MR. FREDERIK A. FERNALD :—

DEAR SIR:—I should like to place before the readers of OUR LANGUAGE a more extensive specimen of my "Sound-English" than the limited space allotted to me in your issue of last April enabled me to give. You will, therefore, greatly oblige me by inserting the following extract from *The True Order of Studies*, by Ex-President Thomas Hill, of Harvard, which I have spelled in "Sound-English." Eni, criticisms that your readers may wish to offer will be welcomed by me, as I am anxious to prove that every detail of my system has been maturely considered, and that all the pros and cons of every one of its features have been carefully weighed.

NOTE.—*q* = *a* in *wasp* or *o* in *on*. Long vowels not at the end of monosyllables are doubled. If the accent does not lie on the first syllable and is not marked by a long vowel or diphthong as in *servaivz*, it is indicated by doubling a consonant.

"no skqlar qv hwqtevvver ebilliti kan tel dhi prononshieeshon qv en ingglish werd

hwich hi haz never chanst tu hiir qqr tu si printed widh daiekrittik sainz. it me dheer-foor bi jostli sed dhat ingglish iz, laik chainiiz, nqt alfebettik in its dres, bot lqgograffik; and dheer iz no man living hu haz lernd, qqr kan lern, tu riid it; dhat iz, tu pronauns enithing and everithing ritn in it. fqqr dhis riizn, lerning to riid, biing dhi atemmt tu akqnmplich en impqssibl thing, iz dhi moost difikolt task onderteekn bai en ingglish chaild. e tof kqnstityuushon riziasts e greet diil qv haardschip and ebyuus; e vigoros intelekt friikwentli servaivz dhi leebor qv lerning tu spel in dhi qqrdireri mood. hi hu wil riflekkt, hauevvver, siiriosli, opqnn dhi abserrditiz qv ingglish qqrthqggrefi, and opqnn dhi graviti widh hwich dhooz abserrditiz aar yuuzhuali introdyuust tu dhi chaild az riiznebl thingz, most persiiv dhat soch instrokkshon haz an injuurios efekkt opqnn dhi chaild'z mental pauerz, and opqnn hiz lov qv truth."

I remain, dear sir, yours very truly,

A. KNOFLACH.

[Eni brief critical remarks that readers of OUR LANGUAGE may wish to offer, will be printed in these pages, together with Mr. Knoflach's replies.—EDITOR.]

. . . SOME . . .

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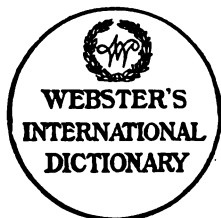
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Publisher of OUR LANGUAGE.

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C VERSUS K.

In *The Phonographic Magazine* for August, 1888, the editor, Mr. Jerome B. Howard, gave this matter a thorough and able handling. He there sez in part:

"Our regular readers are aware that we hav always used the form *k* exclusively in our phonotypic spesimenz; and we hav not done so without turning the *pros* and *cons* of the question over in our mind, and trying to rest our conclusion upon what seems to us the most reasonable view of it. Setting aside eni predilection for or against *c* or *k*, and the historical connection of either with the ded Greek, Latin, or Anglo-Saxon alphabet, we decided in favor of the exclusive use of *k*, for the following reasons:

1. The character *k* iz, according to the prezent usage of the English alphabet, one of the veri few wholly unambiguous letters. It never standz for eni other than its regular sound, and it iz only 'silent' in a veri few cases before *n*. *C* on the other hand, standz for no les than four sounds, besides combining with *h* to form the digraph *ch*, which haz three more sounds. *C* and *ch* are also frequently silent. In the alphabets of foreign tongues *k* haz an equally uniform significance, while *c* displays a remarkable diversity of value. * * *

2. *K* iz in itself the next to the most lejibl character in the 26 letter alphabet, whereaz *c* iz almost the least lejibl, being only more so than *s*.

3. * * * In the English alphabet in common use, all vowels are represented by characters which occupy a median elevation in the line of writing. The consonants, however, for the most part extend either above (*h*, *f*, *d*) or below (*p*, *j*, *g*) this median elevation (excepting *s*, *v*, *z*, *r*, *m*, *n*). In adding the new vowel-signs [of the S. R. A. alphabet] this analogy was regarded, and it would seem that the distinction iz one worth retaining wherever practicable, and that *k* should be preferred to *c*, because it haz a typical consonant form, whereaz *c* resembles the vowel forms.

4. Finally, if *k* iz adopted, *c* retains its sole office of combining with *h* to form the digraph *ch*. It iz reasonable to suppose that, in such a case, the diacritic *h* might in time be dispenst with, and the pair of consonants heard in *chest*, *jest*, be express by the simpl signs *c*, *j*."

To the Editor of OUR LANGUAGE :

In accordance with the true spirit of the age, you call for the expression of *the people* in regard to the spelling reform.

Now, in regard to "*c* versus *k*," what are the virtues of *c* that it should be retained in the language, and the vices of *k* that it should be cast out? Let us examine. First, does *k*—pictorial, reliable letter *k*—ever represent a sound in conflict with its alphabetic name? Would anybody think it reasonable to spell *k-a-t* and pronounce "*sāt*"? Was *k* ever known to get broken or worn or indistinct in print so that it could not be distinguished from a letter of similar form, thus impairing legibility? Was any child that has learnt *k* ever known to make a mistake in pronouncing it? Which is the letter naturally selected by everybody to represent this whispered, back-mouth, lingua-palatal abrupt element of our language, *c*, *q* or *k*? Which one of the following spellings would be unmistakable now and a thousand years hence, *cic*, *qiq* or *kik*?

Second, what character for consistency has the letter *c*—pronounced *se*? Who knows what sound to give it in any but familiar words learned by long and patient drill? Who

knows what sound or sounds to give *c*, *ch*, *sc*, *sch*, *ci*, *ce*, in unfamiliar words? Why throw away a letter with *so much* in its favor and keep one with *so little* in its favor? There is no letter *c* in the Greek alphabet; then for what reason do we spell all of our *k* words derived from the Greek, with either *c* or *ch*? Is it "just the thing" to dress the words we appropriate from a living language (however ancient) in dead Latin's clothes.

Another thing to consider is poor penmanship, in which *c* usually degenerates into something like an undotted *i*; while *k* never loses its identity, even in the worst kind of writing, and is often the key to the only word in a sentence suggesting the correct context. Imagine the woes of business men in a hurry, trying to decipher the proverbially bad chirography of lawyers and *literateurs*, were all the *k* words of the language spelt with *c*.

Considering all the changes that our orthography would undergo with the exclusive use of either *c* or *k* for the sound of *k*, the least difficulty in reading, the most legible words in either print or script, and the most pictorial appearance of a page, favoring rapid reading, are all on the side of *k*. Let's keep *k*, by all means.

A. K. S.-B.

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VOTES.

If the English people agree to name *c* "kee" in the alphabet, and use the letter *k* in some other place, I have no objections; but while it retains its alphabet-name, "see," I can not willingly consent to have it rudely supplant *k*.

J. P. Gruwell, M.D.

Mrs. A. C. Scott-Browne sends me the names of two new subscribers and adds: "They both cast their vote for *k*."

In two revised alphabets received since the issue of No. 5, those of Mr. C. A. Story and Mr. L. L. Lockling, *k* is chosen for the *k* sound.

The international alphabet used by M. Paul Passy for printing English and a number of other languages phonetically, in *Le Maître Phonétique*, also employs *k* for this sound.

I would use *k* in preference to *ck*.

[REV.] H. LYMAN.

[The *C* versus *K* discussion has so far run strongly in favor of *k*, the excellent statement of J. H. K. in No. 5 being the only expression of preference for *c* that I have received. Are there no more adherents of *c* who wish to be heard? Has all been said that can be said in favor of this letter? Every consideration on both sides should be stated before we make up our verdict as to which side has the weight of argument.—EDITOR.]

NEW BOOKS ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

[From the numbers of *The Publishers' Weekly* (New York) and *The Publishers' Circular* (London) for the past month.]

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VOL. 1.

OCTOBER, 1891.

No. 7.

Dr. Alexander Hamilton, 57 Harbord St., Toronto, will receive subscriptions to OUR LANGUAGE in Canada.

The words speld phonetically in OUR LANGUAGE are those upon whose *final forms* all spelling-reformers agree. No transitional spellings are used. The editor believes that adopting a more radical policy before the way is prepared would seriously injure the usefulness of the paper.

All articles, letters, and quotations are speld in the style of the paper, except those that are inserted as illustrations of particular phonetic schemes.

POSTSCRIPT TO THE PHILOSOPHY OF STYLE.

BY HERBERT SPENCER.

The conclusion that because of their comparative brevity and because of those strong associations formed by more frequent use, words of Old-English origin are preferable to words derived from Latin or Greek, should be taken with two qualifications, which it seems needful to ad here.

In some cases the word furnished by our original tongue, and the corresponding word directly or indirectly derived from Latin, through nominally equivalents, are not actually such; and the word of Latin origin, by certain extra connections it has acquired, may be the more expressive. For instance, we have no word of native origin which can advantageously substituted for the word "grand". No such words as "big" or "great", which connote little more than superiority in size or quantity, can be used instead: they do not imply that qualitative superiority which is associated with the idea of grandeur. As adopted into our own language, the word "grand" has been differentiated from "great" by habitual use

in those cases where the greatness has an æsthetic superiority. In this case, then, a word of Latin origin is better than its nearest equivalent of native origin, because by use it has acquired an additional meaning. And here, too, we may conveniently note the fact that the greater brevity of a word does not invariably conduce to greater force. Where the word instead of being one conveying a subordinate component of the idea the sentence expresses, is one conveying the central element of the idea, on which the attention may with advantage rest a moment, a longer word is sometimes better than a shorter word. Thus it may be held that the sentence—"It is grand" is not so effective as the sentence—"It is magnifiscent." Besides the fact that here greater length of the word favors a longer dwelling on the essential part of the thought, there is the fact that the greater length, aided by its division into syllables, gives opportunity for a cadence appropriate to the feeling produced by the thing characterized. By an ascent of the voice on the syllable "nif" and an utterance of this syllable, not only in a higher note, but with greater emphasis than the preceding or succeeding syllables, there is implied that emotion which contemplation of the object produces; and the emotion thus implied is, by sympathy, communicated. One may say that in the case of these two words, if the imposingness is alone to be considered, the word "magnifiscent" may with advantage be employed; but if the sentence expresses a proposition, in which not the imposingness itself, but something *about* the imposingness, is to be expressed, then the word "grand" is preferable.

1404A

The second qualification above referred to, concerns the superiority of words derived from Latin or Greek, in cases where more or less abstract ideas have to be expressed. In such cases it is undesirable to use words having concrete associations; for such words, by the *verbi vividnes* with which they call up thoughts of particular objects or particular actions, impede the formation of conceptions which refer, not to particular objects and actions but to general truths concerning objects or actions of kinds that are more or less various. Thus, such an expression as "the colligation of facts" is better for philosophical purposes than such an expression as "the tying together of facts." This last expression can not be used without suggesting the thought of a bundle of material things bound up by a string or cord—a thought which, in so far as the materiality of its components is concerned, conflicts with the conception to be suggested. Though it is true that when its derivation is remembered, "colligation" raises the same thought, yet, as the thought is not so promptly or irresistibly raised, it stands less in the way of the abstract conception with which attention should be exclusively occupied.—*From "Essays: Scientific, Political, and Speculative", vol. 2, Library edition, 1891.*

"The Science of Spelling."—This is the name of an international alphabet and a system of teaching spelling constructed by Maj. C. A. Story, of Chicago. By this scheme the spelling of English is changed somewhat more than is necessary to make it phonetic, in order to provide for the spelling of other languages. Maj. Story does not agree with the standard authorities in all cases as to what sounds need separate letters in a practical spelling, and his pronunciation of a few words seems to be peculiar. A bill was introduced into the last Congress, and is to be presented to the coming one, appropriating \$5,000,000 to maintain 100 schools in as many states, for one year each, to test this mode of spelling. Half a million is to go to Mr. Story as general manager. The plan is supported by the United States Phonetic Co., incorporated in May, 1887, of which Mr. Story is Sec'y and Treas. I am glad to learn that so energetic a man is working for spelling-reform. The labors of us other reformers will be lightened by his connection with the movement, and very likely he can gain from our studies and experience some desirable modifications of his scheme.

SOUND-ENGLISH DISCUSSED.

Editor of OUR LANGUAGE:

Dear Sir,—The specimen of "Sound-English" published in your September number, draws out of me the following remarks. I think "Sound-English" has no merit. Mr. Knoflach's pronunciation as printed is like that of a foreigner who falsely imagines that he has learned to talk like a native. He uses *ee* for our present name-sound of *a*: one way of mating would be to use *e* to represent the sound of *a* in *bat*, because we say *nātion*, *nātionāl*; *explāin*, *explānation*; *defāme*, *defāmatory*. Another way would be to use it for the *e* in *bet*, which is a mating used by phonographers. But Knoflach uses *e* in *ability*, *an*, *never*. He uses *ii* for our present name-sound of *e*, and uses *i* for the short of the same sound, as in *resists* [*rizisists*], as well as for the *i* of *it*. He uses *oo* for our present name-sound of *o*, and uses *o* for pronunciation [*prononshieeshon*]. It is true that six letters made into twelve, by using them two together and one at a time, can not conveniently be made to do service for about 15 ordinary, 15 long, and 15 obscure vowel sounds; but it seems to me that his system would make confusion worse confounded.

Doubling the consonant to indicate accent is very clumsy. An inverted period or other simple mark following the vowel would serve the purpose equally well, and would look much better.

Yours truly,

JAMES M. MCKINLAY.

REPLY.

The first *a* in *national*, *defamatory*, has not the short sound, "is not the mate," of *a* in *nation*, *defame*. The first *a* in *explanation* has the short sound of *a* in *explain* (*ekspleen*), and I write *eksplenceeshon* as I write *elilliti*, believing that *a* (of the present spelling) ending an unaccented syllable has the short sound of long *a*. In this I follow Mr. Wm. H. P. Phylfe, in his "How should I pronounce?" The *e* in *bet* or *never* likewise represents the short sound of long *a*, the two sounds being "mated" by all phonographers.

I write *en* for *an* because I know that the pronunciation given by children (which I believe to be the correct one) to *an arm* is not "ān arm," but "ē narm," as *another* is not "ān-other," but "ē-nother."

The sound of *i* in *it* is by men considered to be the same as the short sound of the name-sound of *e*; though it is "really a distinct, though closely allied element."—*Web-*

ster's Dictionary. All sistemz of phonography that I am acquainted with mate these two sounds.

Az for the use of *o* for the prezent short *u* in pronunciation (prononshieeshon), I hav ascertained by carefully observing the utterance of children that, while short *u* iz not the exact mate of long *o*, the difference iz by no means greater than between *e* in *me* and *i* in *it*; nor does either of these slight differences throw eni obstacle in the path of children learning to read phonetically. Moreover, the *o* veri frequently represents the sound of *u* in the prezent spelling, az in *son*, *love*, *front*, *nuther*, *wonder*, *sovereign*, *dromedary*, etc., etc.

Doubling a consonant to indicate accent would seem to be more analogous to the prezent spelling of English and meni foreign languages than the inverted period of Mr. Ellis. The latter would, I think, be a hindrance in writing, while in printing and type-writing the additional space and labor would be about the same az in my way.

AUGUSTIN KNOFLACH.

London Phonographers on Spelling.—On 18th June, the London Phonetic Short-hand Writers' Association took up once again the subject of English Orthography. Mr. H. J. O'Leary, an enthusiastic spelling reformer, red a humorous paper, entitled "How we Spel, and How we Write." He sed that we were bundles of contradictions. The man who bilt locomotives or boats that gained five miles in a hundred on their rivals, and the company that ran them hwen bilt, made fortunes; but the man who enabled us to save years in a lifetime was ignored, looked upon az a fool, or laughed at az a visionary. We spent millions annually on education, grumbled at the expense, and at the slow progress made at school, and yet allowed obstacles to lie at the veri door of knowledge which needlessly wasted two years of school life. Mr. O'Leary then gave a long list of illustrations of the inconsistencies of English spelling, interspersed with witi comments. He sed that universal language had been the dream of philosophers. The English language bid fair to become that language. Why not, then, remove the obstacles to such a consummation? Mr. O'Leary's sentiments were heartily seconded by several speakers who followed him, and a cordial vote of thanks was awarded. Mr. E. A. Cope occupied the chair.—*The Phonetic Journal*, 4 July, 1891.

— *The Writer*, the bright litl magazine, whose province iz "to interest and help all literary workers", published in July an article by Jeanie Porter Rudd, entitled "Must Americans Learn to Spell?" It set forth the feeling that many Englishmen hav against shortened spelling, and queried whether Americans who love pure English must spel in the London fashion. This was replied to in the August number, under the title "British Scholars on English Spelling", by the editor of OUR LANGUAGE, the reply being printed in partly phonetic spelling.

Geographic Names, Bulletin No. 3.—The decisions in this list hav been rendered at the instance of the Light House Board, and concern merely the elision of the possessive form of names. In all cases the apostrophe haz been eliminated, while the possessive *s* haz been retained only in case it appeared impracticable to further modify the name. None of these names are widely used, the best known being such az Blackwells Island and Minots Ledge.

—I hav been much encouraged recently in the up-hil work of getting this paper established by several spelling-reform frendz who hav advertised their biznes or their publications in these pages and one who haz bought 200 copies of a particular number. This support, givn hwen it iz most needed, haz made the future of OUR LANGUAGE look much more hopeful. Those who hav obtained subscribers for me, or who hav taken from two to a dozen copies themselvz also hav my especial thanks.

Geographic Names in the Hydrographic Office.—The U. S. Hydrographic Office haz issued a "Report on Uniform System for Spelling Foreign Geographic Names" which makes a pamphlet of 90 pages. The rules for spelling and the alphabet for transliteration proposed in it are substantially those givn in OUR LANGUAGE for May, p. 14. The report includes a comparative table of the alphabets adopted for transliterating names in the government hydrographic work of Great Britain, France, Germany, Spain, and the United States, which shows that veri close agreement haz been attained by the greatest chart-making nations of the world. Communications are appended from the respective hydrographers or other officials in Great Britain, France, Germany, Spain, Canada, Chile, Netherlands, Italy, Austria-Hungary, Netherlands India, Japan, China, Korea, Denmark and Mexico.

THE S. R. A. SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

There are now four names on the list that I called for to take 200 copies of OUR LANGUAGE by tenz or fives, namely, Melvil Dewey, Chas. P. G. Scott, C. W. Knudsen, and W. D. Whitney. Now that the season for active work and study haz begun, the number should be rapidli fild up. The paper needs this asistance to sustain it until it haz secured enough individual subscribers to ensure its support. Wil not twenti or thirty of the more active reformers give me a helping hand in this undertaking? An active periodical iz a necessity to such a movement az ours. There iz no other besides OUR LANGUAGE that iz actually doing the work that such a periodical ought to do. If the publication of *Spelling* iz resumed, az was announced last spring, it wil appear only once in three months, and something more frequent iz needed. Besides, OUR LANGUAGE iz doing work that *Spelling* haz not undertaken to do in discussing the matters about which reformers differ and seeking to secure general agreement on them. Its articles and items on the history and use of words, moreover, are wel adapted to secure the interest of non-reformers and lead them to read the arguments for reform also. Perhaps OUR LANGUAGE

does not exactly meet the views of some reformers, but no one can expect a paper to be just what he wants it unless he edits it himself—and then he wil be disappointed! This paper furnishes a free arena for all views in order that the fittest may survive. Its own spelling follows an original plan but does not conflict with that of eni body of reformers, and iz az far advanced az iz prudent under prezent conditions. Shall such a paper be supported?

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Report of the Commissioner of Education (Wash-
ington, D. C.), for the Year 1887—88, page 927.*

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C VERSUS K.

Sins the issue of No. 6, votes for *k* hav been received from J. C. Williams, of Goderich, Canada, Mrs. E. B. Burnz and J. M. McKinlay, of New York, but none in favor of *c*. The only arguments for *c* that hav been brought out are those of J. H. K. Let us now examine these.

Stated briefly they are: (1) Fewer changes in spelling would be made by the use of *c*, (2) consequently les opposition would be encountered by the reform movement, and (3) more words would show their true etymology. The comparison between the number of *k*-words and hard-*c*-words in the dictionary, which he givz az foundation for hiz first argument may be disregarded; the only proper kind of comparison iz hiz second one, namely, "In fifti consecutive lines hard *c* occurs az an intermediate and az a final letter sevnteen times, and *k* twice." I hav made such a comparison including initials az wel az intermediates and finals, and find that in two pages (about 1000 words) of the novel "We Two," beginning with the passage quoted in No. 6, the *k*-sound iz represented by *c* and *ch* 52 times, by *k* 18 times, and by *ck* 4 times. Proper names were excluded. The ratio of frequency in common language iz thus about 5 to 2 in favor of *c*. But changing the larger number of *c*'s would not cause so much annoyance az changing the les number of *k*'s. The exclusive use of *k* would not cause a reader to stumble in pronouncing a single word while the opposite change would cause no end of stumbling over words in which *c* before *e* or *i* must be sounded hard, such az "macing," "speacing," "racet," "cindred," etc. This whole matter, however, must be regarded az a secondary consideration, for it would concern only the few months or years of the transition period, and would hav no significance in the centuries to follow.

The third, or etymological point may be freely conceded. It iz made worthles by the fact that *c* would indicate a false source for words of Greek or of Teutonic origin, and no one would know whether a new word came under the rule or was one of the exceptions. The superiority of a weather-vane that iz right two-thirds of the time to one that is right only one-third iz not worth considering, for neither can be depended on. Besides, if we hav no use for a weather-vane at all, we ought not to pay much for one that iz imperfect at best. The foremost etymologists hav sed over and over again that we must giv up entirely the

idea of embodying the history of a word in its spelling if we are to hav eni adequate reform. Reformers of scholarly habits, like J. H. K. and some of the philologists, find it hard to do this, but fortunately they are more amenable to argument than persons of les intelijens.

This discussion wil be closed in the next number and another point wil then be taken up.

—Among the journals that hav undertaken an active part in the work for spelling-reform iz *The Leuler*, of Wichita, Kan., which completed its first year with the number for August. Progressive on all subjects, the editor, Mr. G. W. Collings, iz naturally on the side of progress in spelling. He givz a generous share of hiz space in each number to a spelling-reform department, which always includes some matter in full phonetic spelling.

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The Standard Dictionary.—The dictionary that is being prepared for Messrs. Funk & Wagnalls will have several strong claims on public favor. One of these is that the most common meaning of each word is given first. The less common or ancient meanings follow, and the etymology comes after the definitions. The words of the vocabulary are printed in heavy faced type, and only proper names or terms derived from them begin with capitals. Of special interest to spelling-reformers is the use in respelling words for pronunciation of an alphabet that was designed by the American Philological Association, primarily for the work of reform. Special classes of words have been put in charge of experts to the number of over one hundred, and at the head of the staff of editors are I. K. Funk, D.D., editor-in-chief, F. A. March, L.L.D., consulting editor and in charge of spelling and pronunciation, and D. S. Gregory, D.D., managing editor. A pamphlet of sample pages has just been issued, but the volume will not be completed before Jan., 1892.

Contests in Pronouncing.—Pronunciation bees are now the proper caper. They have been having them at a number of the summer schools this season, and they have made as much excitement as the old-fashioned spelling bee used to. They are conducted on substantially the same principle as the spelling bee, only the words are spelt out and the contestants must pronounce them. It is probably safe to say that there are more words mispronounced than are misspelled by intelligent people, and the pronouncing bees ought to be popular in the sitz next winter. Their success would undoubtedly be "pronounced."—*From the Boston Herald in the Phonographic World.*

NEW BOOKS ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

[From the numbers of *The Publishers' Weekly* (New York) and *The Publishers' Circular* (London) for the past month.]

Fireside Dictionary. 416 p. 12°, (Peerless ser., no 42.) N. Y. pap. 25c.

Wendell, Barrett. English composition: eight lectures given at the Lowell Institute. 8+316 p, D. cl. N. Y. \$1.50.

Contents: The elements and the qualities of style; Words; Sentences; Paragraphs; Whole compositions; Clearness; Force; Elegance.

White, A. Baboo English as 'Tis Writ: being Curiosities of Indian Journals. 16mo. pp. 106, London, 6d.

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Final Particles.—Meni authors of textbooks on rhetoric teach that a sentens is made weak by ending it with a litt word like "to," "by," or "with." The rhetoricians have been largely deferred to in this respect, and we find those who are careful of their diction writing, for instance, "the crime of which he was accused" rather than "the crime that he was accused of." In some cases, however, the natural phrase refuses to be thus drest up. No one would think of writing "to what are we coming?" insted of "what are we coming to?" In regard to ending with the particle, what Prof. Henry Reed sez in his "Introduction to English Literature" is instructive:—

"This is eminentli an English idiom, and nothing but prejudice arising from misapplied analogy with the Southern languages, and the propensity to make style more formal and less idiomatic, could ever have led eni one to suppose this construction to be wrong. The false fastidiousness which shuns a short particle at the end of a sentens, is fatal often to a force which belongs to the language with its primal character. The superiority of the idiom I am referring to could be proved beyond question by examples of the best writing in all the eras of the language. As the error is priti wide spread, let me cite a few of these. Lord Bacon sez, 'Houses are bilt to liv in, and not to look on;' and again 'Revenge is a kind of wild justice, which the more a man's nature runs to, the more ought law to weed it out.' Eni attempt to transpose these separable prepositions would destroy the strength and the terseness of the sentensez.

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VOL. 1.

NOVEMBER, 1891.

No. 8.

Dr. Alexander Hamilton, 57 Harbord St., Toronto, wil receive subscriptions to OUR LANGUAGE in Canada.

The words speld phonetically in OUR LANGUAGE are those upon whose *final forms* all spelling-reformers agree. No transitional spellings are used. The editor believes that adopting a more radical policy before the way iz prepared would seriously injure the usefulness of the paper.

All articles, letters, and quotations are speld in the style of the paper, except those that are inserted az illustrations of particular phonetic schemes.

THE HUNDRED MARK PAST!

The first subscription to OUR LANGUAGE was received April 7, from Mr. C. E. Sprague, and the number of subscriptions was brought up to an even hundred October 19, by a list of five names received from Mr. William C. Albro. This iz a veri gratifying success for a phonetic paper to achieve in six months, and shows that OUR LANGUAGE haz elements of strength which wil ensure it a wider and more lasting influence than eni similar periodical haz yet attained in America. Its subscribers are distributed throughout this country, from Massachusetts to the three Pacific Coast states, with a few in Canada and England. They include professors in our leading unversities — Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Princeton, Lafayette, Oberlin, Michigan, and Iowa—biznes men, school-teachers, stenographers and teachers of stenography, authors, and cultivated persons outside of these classes. The editor iz proud of having such a high class of constituents, and promises to do hiz

utmost to deserve the confidence which they have reposed in hiz editorial ability.

NOW FOR THE SECOND HUNDRED.

In order that OUR LANGUAGE may pay expenses it needs 300 subscribers, together with the average amount of advertizing that it haz had so far. It ought to hav this number by the end of its first year. Alredi a good beginning haz been made on the second hundred, the number of copies subscribed for October 31 being 111. I am working hard to make the paper known, having sent out 1,000 copies of every number, except July and August of which 500 were sent. Meni editors who hav helpt me by publishing "Literary Notes" about OUR LANGUAGE hav my sincere thanks. Now I am going to call on the subscribers and frendz of the paper to make one effort all together in its behalf. If each one wil get one other subscriber before the end of November, the second hundred wil be an accomplished fact by the time my next number goes to pres. Can not each one of you do that much? Iz there not at least *one* of your daily associates who takes the same interest that you do in spelling and related matters? To asist you in making your frendz acquainted with the paper, I send you this month three extra copies for distribution. I shall repay the efforts made in behalf of OUR LANGUAGE so far az possible by increasing its

size and value. I hav recently secured promises of contributions from several able writers, and shall take pains to chronicle all the news in my special field during the coming winter. All that iz needed to put OUR LANGUAGE in condition to do valuable work iz a litl prompt action on the part of those interested in its success.

C VERSUS K: THE VERDICT.

Editor of OUR LANGUAGE:

My vote iz for *k*, the unmistakable letter, az the final representative of the consonantal sound in "kick." The only real argument in favor of *c* iz the historical one. Mr. E. Jones, in hiz "Common Sense of English Orthography" sez: *K* iz veri sparingly used in English; it was not used by the Latins, except in a few words derived from the Greek, and iz veri rare in Anglo-Saxon. In modern Portuguese and Spanish *k* iz almost excluded altogether."

Now hav not spelling reformers about agreed to exclude the historical argument from consideration, or, at least, to allow it litl weight in final discussions az to the use of letters?

ELIZA B. BURNZ.

Certainly no consistent spelling reformer can giv much weight to historical arguments. Moreover, those who cling to the one above stated can be met on their own ground. While *c* was used for the *k*-sound in the Latin alphabet, which iz the parent of the English, this sound iz represented only by *k* in the Greek alphabet, which iz the parent of the Latin itself. And it haz been so represented continuously down to the prezent time, for Greek, it should be remembered, iz stil a living language. The discarding of the Greek *k* by the Latins and the making of a new letter out of *g* for the *k*-sound was due to accidental causes rather than eni sound reason.

Az to the exclusion of *k* from the Romanic languages being a reason against its retention in English, the following testimony iz valuable:

DEAR SIR:—Since you allude to the use of *k* insted of *c* in the alphabet of the *International Phonetic Teachers' Association*, it may interest you to hear that in the discussions that led to the adoption of our alphabet (subject to further improvement, of course), *everybody* was in favor of *k*, except one or two of our Spanish colleagues; and even they, whilst regretting that *c* could not be used, did not

really propose its adoption. One of my countrymen, I think, proposed *q*.

Yours truly,
PAUL PASSY.
NEUILLY SUR SEINE, 1, 10, '91.

The Association referred to haz its headquarters in France and haz members all over Europe, including England, with some in America. If such a body could adopt *k* without opposition for an international alphabet, we ought to find no difficulty in making the same choice for the spelling of English.

MR. F. A. FERNALD,

Dear Sir,—Az to the choice between *c* and *k* which you discuss, the practical objection to *k* iz in chirography. It iz too long. In print the "strange appearance" objection iz likely to kil it. It seems doubtful to me whether either of these letters wil control the future. The chirographic problem wil be solved before meni years, and some briefer character be generally used in correspondence and all biznes writing.

D. P. LINDSLEY.
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Mr. Lindsley answers hiz first objection to *k* himself by prophesying the extended use of shorthand, and to this I wil ad that persons who do much writing are fast adopting the type-writer, on which all letters are made with equal ease. I do not believe the "strange appearance" objection iz likely to kil *k*; if so, it would kil every change that we hope for.

It seems to me the only way to change *c* to *k* and *s* iz to "do it." J. E. WOODHEAD.

Our discussion of the past four months haz shown that the arguments for *k* outweigh those for *c* in the estimation of a large majority of reformers. And to the hevier side of the scale must yet be aded an important fact. The slow changes that are going on in English spelling independently of the reform movement show the egzistens of a strong tide away from *c* toward *k*. In the early part of this century *k* was being dropped and *c* retained at the end of words like "publick" and "musick," but these changes stopped fully two generations ago, and now we see the opposite tendensi in the spelling of such words az Sokrates, Sanskrit, Kaffir, Keltic and Karpathians. The sistem of transliterating foreign geographic names used on the British Admiralty charts employs *k*. The French and German sistemz and the Spanish practice agree with the English in this respect, and within the past year substantially the same

sistem haz been adopted by the U. S. government departments. Shall we ad to our labors by trying to stem this tide?

And now, regarding the choice az practically determined, I would suggest to the minority the propriety of "making the vote unanimous." No one can expect that the scheme which iz finally to prevail wil coincide with hiz views in every particular, and each one of us should make up hiz mind to yield gracefully hwen he finds that the majority of hiz associates differ from him. Therefore, wil not our frend J. H. K. agree in future to throw hiz influence in favor of *k*, so that this point may no longer divide us? Wil not Dr. Larison, for the good of our common cause, consent to substitute *k* for *c* in the *Jurnal ov American Orthoepy*? Wil not the Publication Committee of the S. R. A., in deference to the views, expressed or tasit, of the members of the Association, at least use *k* and *ks* in place of *q* and *x*, and drop *c* from *ck*, even if it iz not prepared to displace *c* entirely? Hwen it can be sed that the letter for the *k* sound iz agreed upon by all reformers the number of words speld phonetically in OUR LANGUAGE wil be largely increased, but until the minority haz actually yielded to the inevitable, my rule forbids these changes.

In the next number of this paper another matter wil be taken up for discussion.

Nu English.—This iz a modification of the English language, devised by Mr. Elias Molee, which the author believes would not only prove to be a better international language than eni other proposed, but would also be a desirable substitute for common English. Its chief features are regular inflections, vowel endings for meni words in place of harsh consonants, and phonetic spelling. A few words hav been displaced by new ones formed on Teutonic roots. The author haz published a pamphlet describing this speech (price 25 sents), and haz issued the first number of *The Nu English Herald* (20 sents a year), which iz to be a quarterly paper of four pages octavo. Hiz adres iz Beery Block, Room 501, Minneapolis, Minn.

—A beginners' book in Old English (Anglo-Saxon), by Prof. Geo. Hempl of the University of Michigan, iz promised by D. C. Heath & Co., Boston.

Lecture and Literary Bureau.—During the coming winter a great deal of educational work should be done in the interest of good

spelling and the proper use of language. The editor of OUR LANGUAGE offers to act az an intermediary in arranging for the delivery of lectures or for furnishing articles to periodicals, on the Spelling Reform, English Pronunciation, the History of Alphabetic Writing, the Art of Clear Expression, and related topics.

A CONTRIBUTOR CRITICISED.

Editor of OUR LANGUAGE:

Dear Sir,—Rossiter Johnson, in an article which you copy telz people to "Beware of unnecessary words," etc. I mark some words of hiz which seem unnecessary. In the sentence "The only proper way to endorse a man iz to *turn him around and with a piece of chalk write your name across hiz back between hiz shoulders*," I would throw overboard about half the words. I would omit all I hav italicised. Type-setting iz unhealthful. Let's use fewer words, and thus compel more of the boys to remain on the farm, or follow the occupation of

THE RIVER-HORSE.

[My correspondent returns hiz copy of No. 5 with about 75 words in Mr. Johnson's article marked az unnecessary. Most of these could be omitted without taking enithing from the literal meaning of the essay, but discarding them would strip the writer's style of much that goes to make it effective. A smoking-jacket contains more cloth than iz necessary to make a snug coat, but there are times hwen the looser garment wil do a man the more good.—EDITOR.]

PARTICLES.

—Principal of a New York primary scho o giving a lesson in phonetics.—Children, *i-g* spelz *ig*, now what does *b—i-g* spel? "Hog," screams a litl girl in a back seat, with shreds of earlier lessons hanging in her memory. Oh the delights of guiding the unfolding intellect!

—In the same school a girl of six years on being asked why her brother was absent sed he was sick, and a question az to the nature of the sickness brought out the answer that it was "brown 'skeeters on the lungs."

—At the close of a church service in Windham, a mountain town of New York State, the minister invited all the congregation to remain to the Sunday-school, "which immediately precedes this service."

—From an examination paper in natural philosophy ritn in a Babylon, Long Island, school:—"A liquid iz something that haz length, breadth, and thickness, and can run."

THE ASCERTAINMENT OF ENGLISH.

By the late CHARLES MACKAY, LL.D.

The purpose of the prezent paper, az was that of Dean Swift a hundred and seventi years ago, iz to treat of the purity and preservation of literary English, and to leave undiscussed and with slight mention the colloquial parlance of the multitude, which iz governed by its own laws or by the absens of laws, and corrupted by the changeful, frivolous, and often base and degraded fashion of the time, and which haz no claim to represent the culture of the nation; and to maintain a purity of language which it neither appreciates nor iz able to understand. * * * The multitude iz parrot-like in its power of imitation of that which it often hears, and adopts the stupidest words and phrases, out of sheer want of thought and the ignorant perversities of an imperfect education, or the abortive struggle to originate or to reproduce a dull jocosity. Even the better instructed classes fall into this idle and vulgar habit, and talk of *dilapidated* garments, *dilapidated* boots, and even of *dilapidated* lungs (a phrase employed by no les a talking master than Mr. Gladstone, az an excuse for not making a speech to the mob). Such mocking-birds describe the *christening* of a horse, a dog, a gun, a street, or a ship, utterly forgetful of the fact that to *christen* iz to admit into the community of the Christian Church by the sacred rite of baptizm, and that a thing, an animal, or a person may be *named*, without being admited into the Christian fold, and that to name, even if to *clepe* (except in the past participle *yclept*) be obsolete, iz a good English word.

Others equally, if not stil more, vulgar, speak of a woman az one of the *feminin persuasion*, of a peni-a-liner casually employed on the cheaply conducted newspaper az a person of the *reportorial persuasion*, and of a sailor az being of the *naval persuasion*. These people seem to think that *persuasion* iz synonymous with distinction of sex, or of employment, and not with a mere difference of opinion in religious matters. It iz quite correct to speak of a person az being of the Protestant, the Baptist, or the Methodist persuasion, but it iz both vulgar and incorrect to describe a jockey az being of the *horse-racing persuasion*, or a clergyman az belonging to the *pulpit persuasion*. Speakers and writers of this mental caliber never condescend to *support* or agree to, but are always redi to *endorse* a statement. They never *discuss* a subject, but

always *ventilate* it or 'let the wind' into it. They describe a dinner party or a smoking concert as a *function*, and a person az a *party*. And if the parrot-like pertinacity of repeating the current words of society, whether it iz used in newspapers or in novels, be so strong, it might, under authoritative direction, be made available for the repetition of legitimate and correct English words if influential speakers and writers would but study to use them. * * * * *

Unfortunately gross errors and solecisms of speech hav a greater tendensi to establish themsevlz in popular favor than the correct expressions which they displace. The English public persist in calling the *gorse* beri the *gooseberi*, and *gorse-beri* foulé (gorse-beri crushed or mashed, from the French of the menu, *fouler*, to crush) az *gooseberi fool*. The English, in repeating to their children the fairy tale of Cinderella, persist in calling her slipper one of glass (*verre*), which no lady could dance in, insted of the slipper of *vaire* (miniver or white fur), which would offer no impediment to the litl fairy feet of eni silf of the ball-room. They prefer also *sparrow grass* to asparagus—Peckham *Rye* to Peckham Rise—Peerless Pool to Perilous Pool, and 'feather few' to febrifuge, and say that a ship *swimz* insted of *floats*, az if a ship were a duck or swan, and propelled itself through the water by its own volition.—*The Nineteenth Century*.

NEW BOOKS ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

[From the numbers of *The Publishers' Weekly* (New York) and *The Publishers' Circular* (London) for the past month.]

Barrere, Albert, and C. G. Leland, compilers and editors. A Dictionary of Slang, Jargon and Cant. 2 vols. Printed for subscribers only at the Ballantyne Press.

Farmer, J. S., compiler and editor. Slang and Its Analogues, Past and Present. Vol. 2. C—Fizzles. London. Printed for subscribers only.

Murray, J. A. H., editor. A New English Dictionary on Historical Principles. Part 6. 4to, cloth, \$3.25.

Somervell, R. The Structure of Sentences. An Aid to Translation and Composition. 12mo, pp. 50, 1sh. 6d.

Strong, Herbert A.; Logeman, W. S. and Wheeler, B. Mc. Introduction to the Study of the history of language. 8vo, cloth, \$3.50.

Tarbell, Horace S. Tarbell's Lessons in Language. 6+299 p. D. cl., 70c.

Wagner, Leopold. Names and Their Meaning: A Book for the Curious. 4+330 p. O. il., \$1.75.

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THE PHONOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE.

A LETTER FROM DR. WELCH.

[Phonetic Spelling Scheme No. 5.]

(Our marked letters hav the following sounds :

āte, ēte, īte, ōde, ūse; āre, āll, fūl, mōve; Sift (sing).

R haz the vowel sound of er, and the consonant sound of re.

A, b, c, I, o, u, y, and r are sometimes used az words, az: "Y, to b shūr, I c I o u a kāl now u r mī nabr."

Where only consonants are sounded, only consonants are used, az: "I ofn brnd mī lādłz when I lābrd in metłz."

When the sound of a vowel iz obvious, no mark iz used, az al insted of āl, ne insted of nē, no insted of nō, u and ur insted of ū and ūr.)

VINELAND, N. J.

FREND FRNALD:—I am much plēzd to c ur forward step toard fonetiks. Az editr, for the last twelv yērz, ov *Items of Interest*, I hav dun whot I kud in this direkshun. I resēv several ekschanjes that fāvr reformd spelift, and sum ov them spel thrūout thar publikashun in this wa, or hav a department for it. Fonetiks iz srtinli the kumiñ orthografi for al nashunz. Frans haz takn a desided step toard it; Jrmani haz dun mor than Frans, and Rushia haz dun stil betr, whil Japan and Korea, just kumiñ out of barberizm, r doiñ mōr than al the nāshunz ov sivilizāshun. The tō Iñlish spēkiñ nāshunz that ritli bōst ov lēdiñ the wrld in sivilizāshun, kultūr, and literatūr, r, in sīnz ekspresiñ thar wrdz, behind the veri savajej in the juñgl.

All reformz must b led pāshantli and lofi bī a fū, befōr the masez wil adopt them. But when tha do mōv tha swēp awa everi obstikl and establish sukses.

The ūnanimus and enthuziastik akshun in fāvr ov it bī the tō thousand techrz asemblđ resenti in Toronto shoz the populariti, nesesity, and powr ov the movment. So dus the progres we mād in our last nashunal lejislatūr. A komitē to konsidr reform in speliñ woz apointed that aftr much deliberashun agrēd to report unanimusli in its fāvr; and that komitē wud hav reported if thr had bin tīm. I belēv the tīm iz not far distant when the United Stāts Kongres wil giv fāvrabl akashun. Whot a strid in the reform that wil b!

The first of Januari I hōp to begin the publikashun of *The Young Peoples' Companion*, az a kīnd ov stepiñ stōn from *The Youth's Companion*. If I do, I shal hav a speshal department for simplifid speliñ and fonetiks.

T. B. WELCH.

[I feel obliged to urge Dr. Welch veri strongly to change certain features of hiz orthography. The use of *b, c, r* and *y* for words iz not spelling, it iz abbreviation, or "short long-hand." All the dictionaries agree that the word "be" consists of two sounds—a consonant and a vowel; hens one letter iz not enough to represent it. The same iz true of "see" and "are," while "why" consists of two consonants followed by a diphthong—*h-w-a-ee*—and ought to be speld with four letters. No phonetic objection can be made, however, to Dr. Welch's use of "o" for "owe"; but "you" consists either of a diphthong or of a consonant followed by a vowel; in either case the change to a single letter seems to me to be a move in the wrong direction. Dr. Welch iz also at variance with our best scholars in some matters of orthoepey; for instance, my "International" telz me that there iz a vowel before the *r* in "labored."—EDITOR.]

A LIPOGRAM.

Containing no vowel but "e."

See, the helpless vessel reels
When the tempest's strength she feels.
Speed, men! seek the swell-swept deck.
Ere the crew desert the wreck.

—The Glasgow Citizen.

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SOUND-ENGLISH DISCUSSED.

Editor of OUR LANGUAGE:

In reference to Mr. Knoflach's specimen of "Sound-English" I would say: It looks az un-English az a page printed in the Cincinnati alphabet. It haz az meni useles letters az the old style of spelling. I hav no fear of its obtaining. It iz not what children need. Would it be right to fasten such a style upon the children for all their lives? I say, no! Az to alphabets or sistemz, we hav plenti of them. Hwen we get redi to do the work we can choose from among them. The great question now for us iz this: "Shall children hav "the shortest road to the words of the wise"? J. ROGERS.

Crestview, Fla.

REPLY.

Kindly point out eni useles letters in Sound-English; I am unable to find eni. The saving of space and time in Sound-English az compared with the prezent spelling iz more than eight persent, az may be ascertained by comparing the two styles of reading matter in the "S.-E. Primer."

I do not think that enione intendz, at this time, to "fasten such a style on the children for all their lives."

By using the "Sound-English Primer" az a "brij," I hav this last summer taught a boy of sevn to read, not only school Primers and First Readers, but a complete edition of "Grimm's Fairy Tales." Duration of instruction, three months, five lessons a week—five weeks of this time being devoted to Sound-English. The child, who had never been taught before, now reads page after page for pleasure, knows all the sounds of the English language and all diacritical marks, and finds the pronunciation of new words in hiz dictionary (a small Webster.)

AUGUSTIN KNOFLACH.

Editor of OUR LANGUAGE:

Dear Sir,—I hav been a student of phoneticks for meni years, but I hav never seen eni other sistem that seems az practical az Prof. Knoflach's "Sound-English."

TITUS MUNSON COAN.

New York, Oct. 20, 1891.

—The U. S. Board on Geographic Names ought to tackle the spelling of *Poughkeepsie. Ugh!*

—Dr. W. J. Rolfe iz preparing a Shakspeare "Word-Book," a one volume abridgment of Schumidt's Shakspeare Lexicon, with some revision.

—Prof. Child iz revising hiz essay on Chaucer's grammar and meter by Dr. Furnivall's print of the Harleian MS. 7,334 of the "Canterbury Tales." He haz also arranged for six essays to be ritn by az meni other American Chaucerians on the several texts in Dr. Furnivall's "Six Text" edition of the "Tales," the essays to be published in 1900, which iz the quincentenary of Chaucer's death.

—You kin spall an punctooate thet as you please. I allus do, it kind of puts a noo soot of close onto a word, thisere funattick spellin doos an takes em out of the prissen dress they wair in the Dixonary. Ef I squeeze the cents out of em it's the main thing, and wut they wuz made for; wut's left's jest pummis.—James Russell Lowell in "*The Biglow Papers*."

—I hav recently received all the numbers of *Reform* from the beginning of the current year, its fifteenth. This iz the organ of the General Union for Simplifying Spelling, and of the Union for Roman Letters in Germany. From the October number I learn that these societies hav a combined membership of 10,000, and their increase iz from 100 to 300 every month. A striking testimony to the influence of the latter organization iz the recent formation of a society to oppose it, by the admirers of the indistinct, sight-destroying Gothic alphabet.

—With its October number *The Ink Fiend* began the publication in installments of "The Printer's Lexicon," a dictionary of the technical terms used in printing and the accessory arts, by Henry R. Boss. The author, who haz won a wide reputation az a writer on subjects connected with printing, haz been engaged for more than twenty-five years in collecting the material for this work.

A Nameles Science.—The science relating to the most wonderful force in nature haz no proper name. The science of sound we call acoustics, that of heat iz thermotics, that of light iz optics, and one versed in it iz an optician, hens for the science dealing with electricity I suggest the name *electrics*—alredi one versed in it iz known az an electrician. This would be analogous, also, to mathematics, mathematician; dialectics, dialectician; phonetics, phonetician; and mechanics, mechanician. Having the new word, it would not be necessary to attach the title Professor of Electrical Engineering to a man who teaches only pure science.

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VOL. 1.

DECEMBER, 1891.

No. 9.

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The words speld phonetically in OUR LANGUAGE are those upon whose *final forms* all spelling-reformers agree. No transitional spellings are used. The editor believes that adopting a more radical policy before the way is prepared would seriously impair the usefulness of the paper.

All articles, letters, and quotations are speld in the style of the paper, except those that are inserted as illustrations of particular phonetic schemes.

AMENDED SPELLING IN THE CENTURY DICTIONARY.

Prof. Whitney haz done an important service to the cause of orthographic reform by inserting as an appendix in the Century Dictionary the "List of Amended Spellings recommended by the Philological Society of London and the American Philological Association." The list filz nearly sevn pages. It iz preceded by an introduction, the latter half of which I reprint; the first half consists of historical matter familiar to most of the readers of OUR LANGUAGE. In admitting this list The Century haz made a distinct advans over all other dictionaries.

"The list iz printed here as a record of an important movement which promises to be of special interest to lexicographers in the near future, and as a recognition, in addition to the remarks made in the Preface, of the desirableness of correcting the anomalies and redundancies of English spelling in the directions indicated. It iz the main office of a dictionary to record actual usage, not to commend better usage; but in cases of un-setld usage it must adopt, and thus by in-

ference recommend, one form az against the rest; and, in view of the fact that the amended spellings in question hav been recommended by the highest philological authorities in the English-speaking world, and that they hav been to a considerable extent alredi adopted, in whole or in part, by meni respectable newspapers and other periodicals, and by a large number of persons in private use, besides those who take part in the agitation for spelling-reform, they can hardly be ignored in a dictionary which records without winsing the varying orthography of times just past, and of earlier generations. The reformed orthography of the present, made with scientific intent and with a regard for historic and phonetic truth, iz more worthy of notice, if a dictionary could discriminate az to worthiness between two sets of facts, than the oftentimes capricious and ignorant orthography of the past.

It need not be sed in this dictionary that the objections brought on etymological and literary and other grounds against the correction of English spelling are the unthinking expressions of ignorance and prejudice. All English etymologists are in favor of the correction of English spelling, both on etymological grounds and on the higher ground of the great service it wil render to national educational and international intercourse. It may safely be sed that no competent scholar who haz really examined the question haz come, or could come, to a different conclusion; and it may be confidently predicted that future English dictionaries wil be able to recognize to the full, as this dictionary haz been able in its own usage to recognize in

part, the right of the English vocabulary to be rightly speld.

It iz to be noted that meni of the corrected spellings in the following list are merely re-versions to a simpler mode of spelling formerly common; indeed, such iz largely the intent of the list. Examples are "engin," "genuin," "wil," "shril," and the like, and especially verbal forms like "dropt," "kist," "mist," "tost," etc.—a mode of spelling in use for more than a thousand years (compare Anglo-Saxon "cyste," English "kist;" Anglo-Saxon "miste," English "mist," etc.), and stil familiar in the usage of the best modern poets, az Tennyson and Lowell ("leapt," "mist," "tost" are in Lowell's last poem, "My Brook," December, 1890). All considerations, historical, literary, and economical, are in favor of such corrected forms."

W. D. WHITNEY.

WILL OUR LEADERS LEAD?

It iz fifteen years sins the Spelling Reform Association was formed, fourteen years sins the Philological Association arranged the Standard Fonetic Alfabet, and eight years sins the American and English "Joint Rules" were put forth, but stil we hav no books in amended spelling. *The Nation* in its notice of the concluding part of the Century Dictionary notes this failure and asks veri pointedly az to the Joint Rules, "Haz one publishing-house offered to print for eni author who desires to observe them, or ventured to issue eni classic in their guise? Haz eni author of high literary standing insisted on being printed in the new orthography? If not, what prospect iz there of the reform being carried out?" Now the men who prepared the Joint Rules hav by this act assumed the leadership of the spelling-reform and ought to lead the way in carrying it into effect. You, jentlmen, expect from the general body of reformers the deference due to leaders; your followers expect from you the courage and generalship that leaders should display. You declare that the Joint Rules should be adopted in all books. Most of you are authors but hwen your own books are put in type do you emit the faintest whisper to your publishers about amended spelling? A member of a prominent publishing firm recently showed me the sheets of a forthcoming work by one of your number, which duly perpetuated "the worst spelling in the world." Indeed, the publisher had no idea that the author was a pronounced spelling-reformer until I told him. We want phonetic spellings admitted to the dictionaries,

but no conscientious lexicographer can record az of usage spellings that are not used even by their avowed advocates. Only a few days ago Dr. Gregory, managing editor of the Standard Dictionary, sed to me, "The reformers want 'æsthetic' speld *es* in the dictionary, but they can not giv a single quotation where it iz so used."

Jentlmen, are you in earnest? If so, prove it. You are the ones to go first, for your reputations for scholarship wil protect you from the ridicule that would overwhelm les scholarly writers. Take courage from the experience of Prof. Freeman; hwen he began thirty-sevn years ago to protest against spelling Greek names in Latin fashion hiz was "a voice crying in the wilderness," but now the English-speaking race iz with him. Do you fear the reviewers? Why, Prof. A., the only one of *The Country's* reviewers competent to handle your book iz Dr. B., who iz az arrant a spelling reformer az you are. Wil he ridicule the spelling that he himself approves? Jentlmen, if you do not make progress soon, a more practical class of people wil take up the reform and carry it in a direction that you may not approve, leaving you helplesli stranded. That the publishers do not block your path I wil show in another article. You can not expect them to take the initiative; it iz you who desire the change that should do this, not they who care nothing about it.

Benefit of Clergy—A curious misuse of the phrase "benefit of clergy" appears in a place where inaccuracies are seldom overlooked, *The Century Magazine*. In the article "San Francisco Vigilance Committees," p. 136, Nov. 1891, we read: "Seeing that he must be hanged, I moved that the prisoner hav the benefit of clergy. This was granted, but hwen the minister was left with him, the hardened criminal heaped the vilest insults on hiz venerable hed." Evidentli the writer takes "benefit to clergy" to mean, not the immunity accorded to clerical malefactors, or to those, who, being able to read and write, were assumed to be of the clergy, but the prezens of a minister of religion with the condemned. The Century Dictionary would hav set him right. CHARLES E. SPRAGUE.

—*The Phonographic World* reports that James W. Duffield, of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, haz secured permission to test the use of phonetic print in teaching reading, in one of the schools of that siti, for three months. If successful the method wil be continued.

PUBLISHING IN AMENDED SPELLING.

EIGHT LEADING PUBLISHERS INTERVIEWED.

In order to ascertain whether it is the timidity of authors or the tyranny of publishers that prevents the appearance of books in amended spelling I have shown or sent *The Nation's* remarks on the practical use of the Joint Rules to eight of the largest publishers in the United States and requested answers to these two questions: (1) Has any author "of high literary standing" ever requested your firm to print a book for him in partly phonetic spelling? (2) If such a request were to be made what would be your attitude toward it? The answer to (1) was "No," in every case.

When I put the second query to Mr. W. Appleton, of D. Appleton & Co., he replied, "That is a harder question. If an author insists on a matter of that sort we generally like to do as he wishes, at the same time our printing-office has to have its regular rules. We should not want to go into phonetic spelling unless it was to become general."

"A movement of this kind must have its pioneers," I suggested.

"Well, it doesn't seem to me," returned Mr. Appleton, "that the pioneering should be done in books. I think the magazines and other periodicals ought to take up the matter first, and that books, which are permanent things, should be the last to change their spelling. If there could be some agreement," he continued, "between England and America in regard to spelling we should be glad to have it. It is a matter that gives us no end of trouble." Webster is now the authority in the Appletons' printing-office.

Mr. John H. Harper, of Harper & Bros., said that this question was difficult to answer in advance; that the firm prefers to follow its own spelling, which is Worcester's, but it also likes to do as authors wish. In a book recently published for Mr. G. W. Smalley the author had been particular about the spelling of some words, and his wishes had been carried out.

Mr. George Haven Putnam was on the eve of a journey, but kindly took time to say, "It would depend on the worth of the book to us. Such work would require a great deal of extra attention. If we thought the sale of the book would compensate us for this we would do it, otherwise we should tell the author to go to the Clarendon Press, where they have time to bother with such things."

Mr. John Scribner's answer was, "It

would be considerable trouble for us to do such a thing. It would be the same as making any other change in our methods of work. Our whole establishment is set to run on a certain combination; change one part of that and you can not realize what confusion it makes. Phonetic spelling would be an excellent thing after the change was accomplished; it would make learning to read much easier for children."

The other replies will be given next month.

HOW MANY CONSONANTS IN ENGLISH?

In discussing the details of a phonetic alphabet, reformers can not do better than to take as a basis the "Standard Phonetic Alphabet," which is the scholarly work of a committee of the American Philological Association, modifying it in any respects where sufficient reasons for modification can be shown. This alphabet recognizes 24 consonant sounds in English speech, namely: b, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, r, s, t, v, w, y, z, ch (in *each*), ng, sh, th (in *thin*), th (in *then*), z (in *azure*). Should any be added to or taken from this list? One reformer, Dr. Gruwell, of Ohio, rejects *ng*, not denying that the sound exists in English, but because it can not begin a syllable! *Ch* is described by some phoneticians as a compound of *t* and *sh*; likewise *j* as a compound of *d* and the *z* in *azure* (often represented by *zh*). By using these elements, *ch* and *j* could be dispensed with. Benjamin Franklin omitted *w* and *y* from his alphabet. As to additions, Mr. A. M. Bell and some English authorities make a distinct consonant of the *hw* in *hwen*; it is also contended that still another begins *hue*, *huge*, etc. These are all doubtful or finely-drawn distinctions, however, and I am inclined to think that we had better take 24 as the correct number of consonants in constructing an English alphabet for general use. I say nothing at present about the *letters* to be used for these sounds. Is any reader of a different mind?

—I have received from J. H. K. an article entitled "C versus K; has a 'Verdict' been given?" that would make three-fourths of a page. There was no room for it in this number.

—The story "In the Meshes of a Terrible Spell," which appears in a current magazine, does not deal with the English language.

—Do not forget to order your periodicals for the coming year through the OUR LANGUAGE Book-Club.

THE PREZENT OPPORTUNITY FOR PHONETIC SPELLING.

The efforts of us reformers to secure the general use of phonetic spelling in writing and printing are opposed by the disinclination of the great mas of adults to change what iz habitual to them. There iz, however, one way open in which phonetic spelling can do great good, without eni drawbacks, and thereby win wide-spread approval and support. This iz its use az an introduction to common spelling in teaching children and foreigners to read English, to which I called attention last May. Children hav no old spelling to unlearn and hens experience none of the confusion that meni adults profess to find in simplified orthography.

Reader, do you remember your spelling lessons? what drudgery they were? how much time they took, and how meni hours after school? Would you not be glad to save your children from three-fourths of this treadmill toil? It can be done by using a phonetic primer az a stepping-stone to the ordinary readers. No need to wait for agreement az to the best phonetic scheme before beginning this work; eni simpl and regular sistem will secure the desired result. Books are redi to hand. Two were advertised in OUR LAN-

GUAGE for September and October, and there are others. Let every spelling reformer set to work to introduce what might be called the 're-spelling method' of teaching reading into the public, private, or charity schools of hiz siti or town. Ydu can strive for this with the absolute certainty that substantial results are within your reach. OUR LANGUAGE will aid such efforts by furnishing arguments, suggestions, and records of experience.

Sampl Copies of OUR LANGUAGE hav been sent for at various times by about fifti persons. A copy haz been mailed in every case but most of these persons hav not been heard from again. Another copy iz sent this month az a reminder that the paper iz stil alive, iz growing better every month, and would be glad to hav them az subscribers.

The Second Hundred Subscribers.—Up to 30 Nov. two subscribers had sent me each one new subscription, and one had sent a list of eight. Three other names had also come in, making the total 124. I trust that the results of the efforts made last month hav not all been received yet.

WHICH EDUCATIONAL JOURNAL IS BEST?

Opinions of a few who ought to know:

G. STANLEY HALL, PH. D., LL. D., President Clark University, etc.—I regard "The Teacher" as one of the very best educational journals in the country, and should be tempted to say, were not comparisons odious, the *very* best for its price.

W. T. HARRIS, LL. D., National Commissioner of Education, etc.—I have had occasion often to mark the high order of merit which your periodical has attained among American journals of education.

JEROME ALLEN, PH. D., Professor of Pedagogy, Univ. of the City of N. Y., etc.—It has always taken very high ground, and its editorials and comments have been carefully written. Thoughtful teachers have read its articles with great profit.

E. D. SHIMER, Ph. D., University School of Pedagogy.—The convenient form and typographical excellence of "The Teacher" first attracted me. Its valuable contributions of educational thought have since then held me.

THOMAS M. BALLIET, Supt. of Schools, Springfield, Mass.—I like exceedingly the high tone of "The Teacher" and the scholarly character of its contributions. It is pre-eminently a paper for thoughtful teachers. In view of the solid matter it furnishes from month to month, its subscription price must be regarded as little more than nominal.

F. B. PALMER, PH. D., Principal State Normal School, Fredonia, N. Y.; Author of "The Science of Education," etc.—I recently heard one who is engaged on another teachers' paper pay you the compliment of saying your "Teacher" is regarded as the ablest paper of the kind in the field.

W. H. PAYNE, PH. D., LL. D., President Peabody Normal College, etc.—I have been a reader of "The Teacher" for some years and am pleased with its independent discussion of educational questions.

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JEMZ FROM THE DAILY PRES.

(Contributed.)

In writing, az wel az in speaking, a certain arrangement of words iz necessary in order to convey the sens intended and at the same time be pleasing to the ear. A word in the wrong place may make confusion in the sens; the omission or misplacement of a comparatively unimportant word may destroy the rythm; the insertion of one not needed may hav the like effect. Sometimes, double negatives are confusing to the reader; while at other times, they are needed to convey the idea which iz in the speaker's or writer's mind. Here are a few faulty sentensez which I hav cut out of some newspapers.

An overdose of negatives. From the *New York Times*, 24 Sept., 1891, 2d page, 2d column: "It iz not to be supposed, however, that there are not democrats who are not angry because New York, in a democratic convention, did not declare for the unrestricted coinage of silver."

Extract from the *New York Times*, 9 Oct., 1891, 1st page, 4th column:

"* * * It was believed here that Mr. Halstead had gone az far az circumstances would justify him in repeating the ballot-box forgery blunder that resulted, possibly, in the defeat of Foraker and the election of Campbell." It would be more elegant to say 'in the election,' or to say 'and election,' omitting 'the.' And if I hav the right idea, the words 'that resulted, possibly, in' should be 'which, possibly, was the cause of.'

Extract from the *New York Herald*, 9 Oct., 1891, 4th page, 4th column:

"After Mr. Mathews met with biznes reverses the house was rented for meni years. Then * * * Mrs. Hayward Cutting bought the place from the heirs. She entirely refited it and restored its original splendor." Should be 'restored it to its original splendor.'

Extract from the *New York Herald*, 5th page, 2d column, after correcting the word 'for' to 'of.'

"A protective tarif, besides raising revenue, wil also stimulate the industries of the people, encourage the skil and genius of American citizenz, develop the resources of the government and secure to us, az it haz done in the past thirty years, the first rank in mining, agriculture and manufacturing." Here there iz lack of rythm at the close. It would be better to say 'mining, manufacturing and agriculture'; and still better to say 'in mining, in manufacturing and in agriculture,' because the idea iz first rank in each of them.

The word 'secure' does not fit the rest of the sentens.

Extract from the *New York Times*, 10 Oct., 1891, 1st page, foot of 5th column.

"But Gen. Husted sings the song of harmony and telz of chestnut burrs. In the iridesent picture of the situation in the State which he presented to hiz callers yesterday there was no flaw, but there iz not a loyal member of the Miller wing in the State who will not think of the suppressed sentenz of Mr. Miller's cable message this morning. None of them will find consolation in the fact that the chestnuts are ripening in Westchester." There seems to be great lack of rythm here.

I frequently find the word none used in this way. "Two of the passenger cars were thrown from the track, but none of the passengers was hurt." 'None' being an unemphatic word, my ear expects the word 'are' after the word 'passengers.' I think it would be better to say 'no passenger was hurt,' or 'not one of the passengers was hurt.'

— A hed-line in the *New York Herald* for 27 Oct. reads "Four Masked Men Hold up the Office of a Street Railway Company." The item does not state how fast the office was going before it was 'held up.'

OPINIONS OF SOUND-ENGLISH.

BOSTON, 19 Oct., 1891.

Editor of OUR LANGUAGE:

DEAR SIR.—The October number of OUR LANGUAGE contains a criticism of "Sound-English," and a reply by the author, Prof. Knoflach. The current method of spelling haz so twisted all hedz awry that hardly eni two reformers are able to discern a like way out of the prezent orthographic jungle. Compromises sometimes apparently ameliorate conditions, but they seldom satisfy, and never rectify. Prof. Knoflach's endeavor to base the vowel names and properties upon elemental sounds, insted of the prezent eni and every and no sound in particular custom, iz a move in the right direction. Although it may at first be confusing to those who hav alredi learned to spel—infernally, it presents no difficulties to the unperverted mind of a beginner. That rudimentary instruction should be conducted az nearly az possible on elemental prinsiplz iz self-evident. Honest word-bilding iz clearly in the interest of good morals. Prof. Knoflach proposes to giv character to our alphabetic characters. Hiz vowel sounds are az easily learned az

those now in use, and they mean what they say. They wil wear wel, and keep in eni climate. While I consider accent and pronunciation az being too much controlled by caprice and fashion to justify a cumbrous employment of consonants in their behalf, I believe that the main features of Prof. Knoflach's sitem approach nearer to a fundamental basis for reform than eni other I know of.

EDWIN M. STEARNS.

BATH, ENGLAND, 23 Oct., 1891.

Abortive schemes of spelling reform that pass from frend to frend through the post, and do not appear in type, do no harm; but such az are presented to the public do great harm. Think what a God-send the specimen on page 44 of OUR LANGUAGE would be to an enemy of the reform! He would reproduce it az a style of reformed spelling that "haz been maturely considered and all the pros and cons of whose features hav been carefully weighed." Better bear the ilz of the spelling we hav than change for such a scheme.

EIZAK PITMAN.

Phonetic English for the Chinese.—At the Methodist Chinese Mission, 205 West 14 Street, New York, I witness, on November 8, a triumphant demonstration of the value of phonetic spelling az a stepping-stone in teaching pupils to read ordinary English. A pupil of the school, who had received five lessons a week, for three weeks, was examined and found able to read 74 pages of Harpers' First Reader. He had been taught by Mr. Knoflach, using "Sound-English" at first, and passing from this into the ordinary print. Sufficient proof was givn that the test was perfectly fair. The Chinaman's Mission teacher stated that her pupil could neither read nor speak English, except three or four short phrases, hwen Mr. Knoflach took him in hand, and she, together with several of the other teachers, expressed much wonder and delight at the achievement. The man also red the first eight verses of Genesis.

The teaching iz especially difficult in such a case az this for the pupil can not understand the instructor's explanations, besides several sounds in English are strange to Chinese vocal organs. Mr. Knoflach haz sins begun to teach German and Italian children to read English by the same means, in a New York charity school. What other spelling-reformers are doing practical work like this?

Thomas Hill, D. D., LL.D., Ex-President of Harvard College, died in Waltham, Mass., 21 Nov. An excellent portrait of him was published in *The Phonographic Magazine* for July, 1891, with a biographical sketch from which I learn that in 1852 the attention of the school-committee of Waltham, of which the Rev. Mr. Hill was a member, was called to phonography and phonotypy. Phonetic print was immediately introduced into the primary schools of the town az an aid in teaching reading. Mr. Hill became deeply interested in this mode of teaching and advocated it with much zeal and success. After being called to a pastorate in Portland, Me., in 1873 he was elected to the school-committee of that siti, and introduced Edwin Leigh's "Pronouncing Orthography" into the primary schools there.

—Through somebody's blunder part of the November issue of OUR LANGUAGE was printed on glossy paper, which iz rather-trying to the eyes. If eni subscriber who wishes a copy on the paper regularly used wil mail the one he now haz to me, with hiz name ritn on the wrapper, I wil send the other with the January number. Part of the October issue also was printed on the glossy paper, including all that I hav left over, but I do not think eni went to subscribers.

NEW BOOKS ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

[From the numbers of *The Publishers' Weekly* (New York) and *The Publishers' Circular* (London) for the past month.]

Chaucer's Prologue to the Canterbury Tales. Rev. Walter W. Skeat, editor. School edn. 82 p., D. London, 1s.

Johnson, C: F. English Words; an elementary study of derivations. 255 p., S. N. Y., 84 cents.

Lentzer, K. Colonial English: a glossary of Australian, Anglo-Indian, Pidgin-English, etc., words. O. London, 7s. 6d.

Lounsbury, T: R. Studies in Chaucer. His life and writings. 3 v., O. N. Y. \$9.

Reid, L: H. English Grammar Primer. 4 + 59 p., O. bds. N. Y., net 30 cents.

Scherer, Edmond. Essays on English Literature. Tr. by G: Saintsbury. 40 + 309 p., por., D. N. Y., cl., \$1.50.

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To supply the increasing demand for stenographers, schools of shorthand and type-writing have been established in various parts of the country, and, with few exceptions, all business colleges now have a "department of shorthand." A number of systems are taught, but that of Benn Pitman is more generally used than any other in this country, and may be called the "American system."—*Extract from the Report of the Commissioner of Education (Washington, D. C.), for the Year 1887—88, page 927.*

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THE PHONOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE.

Our Language.

DEVOTED TO

PRESERVING, EXTENDING, AND IMPROVING THE ENGLISH SPEECH.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY, AT 1778 TOPPING STREET, NEW YORK.

FREDERIK A. FERNALD, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

PRICE, 50 CENTS A YEAR.

SINGLE NUMBER, 5 CENTS.

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JANUARY, 1892.

No. 10.

Dr. Alexander Hamilton, 57 Harbord St., Toronto, will receive subscriptions to OUR LANGUAGE in Canada.

The words speld phonetically in OUR LANGUAGE are those upon whose *final forms* all spelling-reformers agree. No transitional spellings are used. The editor believes that adopting a more radical policy before the way is prepared would seriously impair the usefulness of the paper.

All articles, letters, and quotations are speld in the style of the paper, except those that are inserted as illustrations of particular phonetic schemes.

half-way phonetic style because (1) more people wil read it than would do so if it were wholly phonetic, and (2) I wish to keep before the eyes of reformers the stage of agreement that we hav now reached. By means of the discussions carried on in its pages, however, I hope to bring all reformers up to complete agreement, so that hwen the time iz ripe for decisive action we shall be redi to say with one voice just what dres the English language ought to wear.—EDITOR.]

HERBERT SPENCER FAVORS PHONETIC SPELLING.

64 Avenue Road, Regent's Park,
LONDON, N. W., Nov. 13, 1891.

DEAR SIR: A complete phonetic sistem of spelling iz veri desirable; but I am by no means certain that it iz desirable to introduce a half-and-half sistem, sins if established it would stand in the way of a complete sistem.

I am, faithfully yours,

HERBERT SPENCER.

F. A. Fernald, Esq.

[The above endorsement of phonetic spelling, by one whose judgment iz widely held in the highest esteem, iz the New Year's gift of OUR LANGUAGE to the spelling reformers of England and America. It iz one of the most valuable letters in favor of the reform that haz ever been obtained, and I hope that it wil be reprinted in every journal that favors simplified spelling. The efforts of OUR LANGUAGE are in full accord with the view of Mr. Spencer. This paper iz printed in a

ODD AND DISGUISED DERIVATIONS.

BY CHARLES F. JOHNSON.

[Professor of English Literature in Trinity College.]

The changes in meaning through which a word sometimes passes in succeeding generations, though nearly always logical, are sometimes veri complex. Consequently if a link of the historical sequence iz lost, it iz dangerous to atempt to supply it by conjecture. An abstract word grows out of a concrete word because we learn by experience to know concrete things first. But sometimes the meaning iz boldly transferred in the other direction by an exercise of the radical metaphor-bilding faculty.

* * *

Quaint iz a word which haz passed through various vicissitudes of meaning. It iz derived from the Latin *cognitus*, known, and in point of derivation iz the same word az *noble*. It now means old-fashioned with a slight implication of simplisiti and digniti. Professor Earle sez: "We may almost say that the word *quaint* now signifies 'after the fashion

of the sevnteenth century.' It means something that iz priti after some by-gone standard of pritines." In the fourteenth century it was "a great social word, describing an indefinit sort of merit and approbation." Chaucer calls the spear of Achilles a "quaint spear", for it could both hurt and heal. Shakspeare makes Prospero say, "My quaint Ariel," and in "Much Ado about Nothing" speaks of a "fine, quaint, graceful, and excellent fashion."

* * * *

Belfry haz nothing to do with *bel*, but was originally *berefrut*, or watch-tower, and was applied to the movable tower on wheels used in the Midl Ages to attack a walled town. It now means a tower for belz. The change of meaning iz due to the sound of the first syllable.

Dirge, a funeral chant, comes from *dirige*, guide. In the Latin service for the ded, one part began, "*Dirige domine vitam meam*" [Guide, Lord, my life.] *Dirige* was contracted into *dirge*, and extended into a general word for eni musical expression of grief.

Postumous, meaning last, was first applied to a child born after the father's death, though it ment simpli the last born. Then an *h* was thrust into the word, az if it ment after burial in the ground. Finally the meaning was restricted to a child born after the father's death, or to a work published after the author's death.

Spend, *splay*, and *sport* are an odd group of words. They are all Latin yet hav a decided appearance of belonging to old English stock. *Spend* iz *dispendere*, to weigh out; *splay* iz *displicere*, to unfold; *sport* iz *disportere*, to carry hither and thither. In all cases the first letters of "dis" hav dropped out of sight, and the *s*, in accordance with a phonetic law, haz survived. *Sport* and *spend* hav superseded the old forms, but *splay* haz secured a standing in "spaly-footed" only, "display" stubbornly holding its place.

Allow iz a verb with a double root, or, rather, there were originally two verbs, "allow" from *allaudare*, to praise, and "allow" from *allocare*, to place, to expend—hens, an "allowance," or money givn. The first meaning can be found in the Bible and in Shakspeare; "Ye allow the deeds of your fathers."—Luke, xi, 48. The use of *allow* in the sens of praise iz obsolete, yet az there iz a connection between approval and permission, the first meaning haz colored the modern usage.

Amazement, az confusion of mind from

whatever cause, and not, az now, simpli astonishment; *depart*, in the sens of separate ("til death us depart," corrupted in the marriage service into "do part"), and meni other old usages can be found in the prayer-book.

Ampersand, the arbitrary character for the word "and", haz an odd origin. In repeating the alphabet, children were taught to close by saying, "X, Y, Z and *per se* and"—that iz, "and by itself." This, shortened into "ampersand," became the name of the character. The character itself grew out of the Latin *et*, which scribes wrote in an ornamental fashion, curling backward the tail of the *t* in a flourish.—*From the author's littl book on "English Words," just published by Harper & Bros.*

PUBLISHING IN AMENDED SPELLING.

(Concluded.)

The three following letters were received from publishing houses outside of New York:

BOSTON, Nov. 24, 1891.

Mr. Frederik A. Fernald,

DEAR SIR; Your favor of the 21st inst. iz just at hand. We can easily answer your first question in the negative. No author of high literary standing haz ever asked us to print a book in partly phonetic spelling.

Az to the second question, we can only say now that if such a request were to be made, we should consider it then in the light of the circumstances and of the arguments which the author might offer az the basis of hiz request. Yours truly,

HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN & Co.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 25, 1891.

Mr. Frederik A. Fernald:

DEAR SIR; Replying to your favor of the 21st inst. we would say that our position iz entirely upon the side of a conservative spelling. The standard used in our composition rooms iz Worcester's Dictionary.

No author of "high literary standing haz asked us to print his book in phonetic spelling," and if the request were to be made, we should not care to undertake the work upon that condition. Yours veri truly,

J. B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY.

CHICAGO, Nov. 23, 1891.

[Reply to my second question.]

We should decline to publish it unless at hiz expense or risk. We hav had two small works offered us, but the chances of sale we felt were too slim for us to take the entire risk at this stage. Respectfully yours,

S. C. GRIGGS & Co.

One other New York publisher on whom I called was Mr. Henry Holt. In the course of an interesting conversation he said, in regard to phonetic printing: "If the author were of high standing, so that his book would sell in spite of the spelling, I should be glad to do it. I should not count the extra trouble it would make anything, but I should not be willing to lose more money on it than I could afford to contribute to any other such reform. The new spelling ought to be approved by some central authority; I would not publish a book in a spelling gotten up by one man, except at his own risk. I am heartily in favor of the movement, and should be glad to help any effort to promote it; that I was satisfied would not be ridiculous."

It is evident from the statements given in this and the preceding number of *OUR LANGUAGE*, that an author who produces readily selling books, need not look far for a publisher who will print for him in moderately simplified spelling, while Mr. Holt would welcome the opportunity of doing all that belongs to a publisher to do in advancing the spelling-reform.

International Copyright and American Spelling.—When the international copyright law went into effect, *The Writer* expressed the opinion that English readers would learn to tolerate American spelling, through English books printed from type set in the United States, and the same expectation was expressed in a literary note in the *New York Times* last month. Unfortunately this is too good to be true. Whenever an English publisher arranges with an American publisher to set the type and make plates for a book, he will send over his directions in regard to the size of page, size of type, and *style of spelling*, and the directions about spelling will be followed as implicitly as any others. I am now overseeing the printing of an English book for the publishing house with which I am connected, according to directions from England (sent by the author in this case), and these directions are being carried out to the letter. Although the English spelling was not one of the things insisted on, the American publisher decided to "follow copy" in spelling, so as to have the book uniform with the author's other works, which are printed from English plates.

Shall we have "the Grip" or "La Grippe"?—The colloquial French name for

epidemic influenza has unmistakably "declared its intention" to become naturalized in the English language. The conditions under which it shall be admitted to citizenship ought, therefore, to be decided before they become settled by haphazard. At present there is no agreement among the newspapers nor among the medical journals upon the form of this word. In the first place it may be said that it is useless to lug in the French article "la" with "grippe"; it will not stay any more than it has with "champagne", or "quadrille", so it may as well be dropped first and last. As to the spelling of "grip", of course the simpler form is the better. No one wants to write six letters where four are enough, and in this word there are only four sounds to be represented. When the French adopt an English word they change its spelling to agree with their mode, and the English race should not be timid about doing the same with French words. There is no need of retaining the silent *p* to distinguish the name of the disease from "grip", meaning a clutch, for the words are just the same to the ear and yet no confusion occurs with them in speaking. Let us write "the grip".

A Wonderful Little Binder.—The Klip, advertised on another page, is a new device which has already achieved a phenomenal success. During the four months since the first advertisement of it appeared, it has been adopted by the public libraries of Boston, New Haven, Pittsburg, and many other places, by several government departments, by *The Youth's Companion* and other papers, by a number of college libraries, and by scores of individuals. The inventor states, in a private letter, that his only difficulty is to make it fast enough to supply the demand.

OUR LANGUAGE is approaching the end of its first year, but I shall not bind any sets of it till enough numbers have been issued to make a fairly thick volume. Meanwhile, I would advise subscribers who wish to preserve their copies, to fasten them together with Klips, which will be found useful, also, for many other purposes. I have procured a quantity and will supply them at the prices given in the advertisement. They can be used either with or without a temporary cover. Several sizes sent in a dozen lot if desired.

The first subscription received in January comes from Insein, Burma. With subscribers from California to Massachusetts, in England and East India, *OUR LANGUAGE* now goes nearly round the world.

HOW SPELLING DAMAGES THE MIND.

BY FREDERIK A. FERNALD.

Learning to read the English language iz one of the worst mind-stunting processes that haz formed a part of the general education of eni people. Its evil influence arises from the partly phonetic, partly lawless character of English spelling. Although each letter represents some sound oftener than eni other, there iz hardly a letter in the alphabet that does not represent more than one sound, and hardly a sound in the language that iz not represented in several ways, while meni words are ritn with az meni silent letters az significant ones. There iz nothing in eni word to indicate in which of these ways its component sounds are represented, nothing in the ritn group of letters to show which sounds they stand for, and which of them, if eni, are silent so that a learner can never be sure of pronouncing rightly an English word that he haz not heard spoken, nor of spelling correctly one that he haz never seen ritn. The spelling of each word must be learned by sheer force of memory. In this work the pupil's reasoning powers can not be utilized, but must be subdued, while hiz memory iz sadli overworked. In the affairs of the child's daily life, the

logical following out of rules iz rewarded; in learning to spel, it brings him only discomfiture and bewilderment. He iz taught that b-o-n-e stands for "bōn" (not "bo-ne"), and t-o-n-e for "tōn," but that d-o-n-e standz for "dun," that g-o-n-e spelz "gōn," m-o-v-e spelz "moov," and b-r-o-n-ze iz "bronz." Now, hwen he comes in reading to another similar word, az "none," he haz no means of telling whether to call it "nōn," "nun," "nōn," "noon" or "non;" he can only look up at his teacher and wait to be told. The influence of the spelling-class quickly drives him to repress eni inclination to reason, and he givz himself up to a blind following of authority. "No child learns English spelling without getting the pernicious notion that cram iz better than thinking and that common sens iz a treacherous guide." The child who can take what he iz told without asking why, who can repeat a rule without troubling himself about its meaning, gets along best. On the other hand, the child who haz difficulty in learning to spel may be expected to develop strong logical faculties. He iz constantly trying to spel according to some prinsipl, and, of course, constantly coming to grief. Thus a boy who had long been at the foot of hiz spelling-class was one day givn the word "*ghost*," and

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G. STANLEY HALL, PH. D., LL. D., President Clark University, etc.—I regard "The Teacher" as one of the very best educational journals in the country, and should be tempted to say, were not comparisons odious, the *very* best for its price.

W. T. HARRIS, LL. D., National Commissioner of Education, etc.—I have had occasion often to mark the high order of merit which your periodical has attained among American journals of education.

JEROME ALLEN, PH. D., Professor of Pedagogy, Univ. of the City of N. Y., etc.—It has always taken very high ground, and its editorials and comments have been carefully written. Thoughtful teachers have read its articles with great profit.

E. D. SHIMER, Ph. D., University School of Pedagogy.—The convenient form and typographical excellence of "The Teacher" first attracted me. Its valuable contributions of educational thought have since then held me.

THOMAS M. BALLIET, Supt. of Schools, Springfield, Mass.—I like exceedingly the high tone of "The Teacher" and the scholarly character of its contributions. It is pre-eminently a paper for thoughtful teachers. In view of the solid matter it furnishes from month to month, its subscription price must be regarded as little more than nominal.

F. B. PALMER, PH. D., Principal State Normal School, Fredonia, N. Y.; Author of "The Science of Education," etc.—I recently heard one who is engaged on another teachers' paper pay you the compliment of saying your "Teacher" is regarded as the ablest paper of the kind in the field.

W. H. PAYNE, PH. D., LL. D., President Peabody Normal College, etc.—I have been a reader of "The Teacher" for some years and am pleased with its independent discussion of educational questions.

J. P. GORDY, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology and Pedagogy, Ohio University.—I have long regarded it as one of the ablest of our educational papers.

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making a desperate attempt at the sort of spelling he had oftenest heard succeed, he speld it g-h-o-g-h-j-s-t. This bringing upon him shouts of laughter, he sed, with clinched fist and tearful eyes: "You needn't laugh, you all spel homelier 'n that!" So much attention iz givn to spelling that children obtain false ideas of its importance. The *spelling*, or representation, becomes to them the word, while the real *word* iz called the pronunciation and thought of az an appendage. They learn to despise the poor spelling, a prejudice which iz neyer outgrown, and above all, they become so absorbed in the manipulation of words that they hav litl chance to grasp the ideas which the words stand for.

If our notation of numbers were az irregular az our notation of speech, so that the numbers from forty to forty-five, for instance, should be ritn, az follows: 40, 741, 420, 43, 414, 225; and if no one could tel at sight whether a number like 7,242,812 contained several figures which were "silent," or had exceptional values, who can doubt that the study of arithmetic, insted of being a valuable disiplin, would be mere mentally enervating drudgery? If it were proposed that children should learn a style of writing music which gave different values to the the same characters, similarly placed, in different pieces, and aded a host of "silent" notes, the evils of learning such a sistem would be plainly seen. Yet meni people, who hav forgotten their own sufferings in the spelling-class, can not see that children are so veri much perplexed in learning to spel, or perhaps maintain that the struggle involved iz "good for them."

"I know," sez Max Müller, "there are persons who can defend enithing, and who hold that it iz due to this veri disiplin that the English character iz what it iz; that it retains respect for authority; that it does not require a reason for everything; and that it does not admit that what iz inconceivable iz therefore impossible. Even English orthodoxy haz been traced back to that hidn source, because a child accustomed to believe that t-h-o-u-g-h iz "tho," and that t-h-r-o-u-g-h iz "thru," would afterward believe enithing. It may be so; stil I doubt whether even such objects would justify such means." Lord Lytton asks in "The Caxtons," "How can a sistem of education flourish that begins by so monstrous a falsehood, which the sens of hearing suffices to contradict?"

Here iz a chief source of the incapacity for thinking which academy and college students bring into the science laboratories. This

irrational process, taken up hwen the child enters school, occupying a large share of hiz time, and continued for six or eight years, haz a powerful influence in shaping hiz plastic mind. Hwen at last he iz allowed to take up the study of nature, at the wrong end of hiz school course, what wonder that he sits with folded hands, waiting to be told facts to commit to memory, that he can not realize what a law iz, and does not know how to use hiz reason in obtaining knowledge? Rational education wil never flourish az it should til a reformation in the teaching of reading and spelling haz been accomplished.

Further, Mr. J. H. Gladstone, member of the School Board for London haz computed the number of hours spent by children in learning to read and spel English to be 2,320, while, in gaining an equal knowledge of their native language, Italian children spend only 945 hours. The difference amounts to nearly two school years, and shows under what a disadvantage English-speaking children labor. Can eni one believe that 4,923,451, or 13.4 per sent. of our population over ten years of age would be illiterate if learning to read were not so formidable an undertaking? In Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, and some German states, there are hardly eni illiterates.—*From The Popular Science Monthly for Sept., 1885.*

[To be concluded.]

NEW BOOKS ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

[From *The Publishers' Weekly* (New York, and *The Publishers' Circular* (London) for the past month.]

Bechtel, J: H. Handbook of Pronunciation and Phonetic Analysis. New edn. 143 p., T. Phila., 50 cents.

Century Dictionary. Prepared under the superintendence of W: Dwight Whitney. Vol. 6 [last]. 1080 p., il., Q. New York, subsc., \$15, full shp.

Collins, J: Churton. The Study of English Literature. A plea for its recognition and organization at the [English] universities. 167 p., 12 mo. New York, \$1.

Gilmore, J. H. The Outlines of Rhetoric. 183 p., D. Boston, 90 cents, cl.

Hill, G: Birbeck. Writers and Readers. 211 p., D. New York, \$1.75.

Six lectures red at Oxford. Four deal with revolutions in literary taste, and two with the study of literature in education.

Maitland, James. The American Slang Dictionary. 308 p., Q. Chicago, subsc., \$5, cl.

Includes British and Colonial slang. Edition limited; linen paper, wide margins, uncut.

Successful Writing. A literary compendium; with a Dictionary of Synonyms and Antonyms. 12 mo. Chicago, cl. \$1; pap. 50 cents.

Trainer, P. E. Spelling and Mechanical Reading taught by means of Word-Building. 12 mo. Course I (5th edn.), 1 d. Course II, 2 d., pap. London.

Universal Writer, The. C: H. White, editor. Monthly. 50 cents a year. Devoted to shorthand, typewriting, and literature. Frank C. Peck, publisher, 6 and 7 Lynch Block, Syracuse, N. Y.

Wilson, J: D. Elementary English prepared with reference to the regents' examination in the state of New York. Syracuse, 6-62 p. S. cl., 35 cents.

Eni book published wil be sent, post paid, on receipt of price by the publisher of OUR LANGUAGE.

The American Alphabet. By JOHN M. MORT. 2 p., Q., 5 cents. The author, 4020 Ellis Av., Chicago.

This handsomely printed sheet haz on one side the print forms of an alphabet of 43 letters, with a column of description, and on the other side neatly engraved script forms of the same. The 40 simpl sounds and four diphthongs of the "Standard Fonetik Alphabet" are represented, omitting *a* in "care." The problem of a phonetic alphabet iz here attacked from the type-cutter's stand-point, but it does not seem to me that the solution haz been brought eni nearer. With few exceptions the new letters, whether original or adopted from older alphabets, fail to agree sufficiently in character with the prezent alphabet.

English Words. An elementary Study of Derivations. By CHARLES F. JOHNSON, Professor in Trinity College. 255 p., S. Harper & Bros., New York, 84 cents.

It would be wel if every cultivated person had the knowledge concerning the words that he uses which iz contained in this litl book. The author wel sez that "by knowing something of the derivation and history of English words we come to hold them in a fuller and richer sens, and to hav a certain number of associations with them which enables us to use them more accurately and more picturesquely." In hiz early chapters Prof. Johnson considers the relationship of the English language, and the sources of modern English words, taking up separately

the groups of words derived from Keltic, from Latin, and from minor sources. There are two entertaining chapters on "Erroneous Derivations" and "Odd and Disguised Derivations." Much curious information iz givn also in regard to geographical names and surnames. Words of the professions and trades form another wel represented class. Although ritn for use az a text-book "English Words" iz none the les adapted for general reading. Its authorities are such specialists az Marsh, Müller, and Skeat, but the book iz by no means technical in character. Other books on the subjects of several of the chapters are referred to for further reading, and a list of additional words for study iz givn.

A System of Phonic Writing. By CHARLES MORELL. 22 p., D. 25 cents. The author, Phonic Institute, Chicago.

Here iz another candidate for the favor of spelling-reformers. The body of the pamphlet explains the need of phonetic spelling and a revised alphabet, and telz the author's reasons for hiz choice of forms for new letters. Hiz alphabet and spesimenz of hiz phonoscript and phonotypy follow. The alphabet contains 25 consonants, one of them being the one the Cockney uses where he² doesn't use eni. There are eleven vowels and three diphthongs, the author agreeing with those who do not deem it necessary to distinguish the *a* in "sofa," the *a* in "care," *o* in "nor," *o* in "propel," and the *u* in "burn." The simpl vowel in "pull" he calls a diphthong, and the diphthong in "ice" he calls a vowel. Hiz mode of procuring new letters iz scholarly and scientific. He draws them from the original source from which our prezent letters were evolved—the Greek alphabet, but hiz forms hav not the character that evolution haz given to those we now use. He also utilizes *c*, *q*, and *x*.

In some supplementary pages the author argues that the smooth breathing belongs in the alphabet just az much az *h* does, but most persons wil agree that we are wel rid of it.

How Meni Consonants?—No objection to 24 az the number of consonants in the English alphabet haz yet been received. If none comes to hand this month, I shall conclude that the readers of OUR LANGUAGE are of one mind on this point, and shall pass on to something els.

—The "Second Hundred" subscribers iz coming along gradually, the whole number 31 Dec. being 130.

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FEBRUARY, 1892.

No. 11.

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All articles, letters, and quotations are speld in the style of the paper, except those that are inserted as illustrations of particular phonetic schemes.

SPELLING REFORM IN CONGRESS.

An effort haz been begun to induce the United States Congress to order the dropping of silent letters to a moderate extent in the printing done for the Government. The changes proposed are embodied in the petition on the next page, to which spelling-reformers should get az meni signatures az possible in the next six weeks. More matter iz put in type in the Government Printing Office than in eni other printing office in America. Much of this consists of works on education, agriculture, geology, hydrography, ethnology, zoology, military affairs, etc., that hav a wide circulation both at home and abroad. The adoption of even moderately amended spelling in the printing for the Government would, therefore, hav a wide-reaching influence for the advansment of the reform. Now iz a most favorable time to secure the proposed action, for the public printing iz to undergo an overhauling by the prezent Congress. A committee haz made an exhaustive report upon it and a bil in the interest of economy haz been brought in. Az

the resolution for simplified spelling also tendz to economy, it iz likely to win the support of meni members of Congress on this account. If the cost of Government publications could be reduced by even one persent it would be an important saving of the money which the people pays in taxes.

Eni one who wil canvass for signatures to the accompanying petition can obtain a copy of it from Mr. Henry R. Boss, 232 Irving Av., Chicago, or from the editor of OUR LANGUAGE. I shall circulate one in New York, and persons who wish to attach their names to it wil find me during biznes hours at 3 Bond St. I wil also furnish to other canvassers lists of persons in their respective sitiz and towns who would probably like to sign, and in my next number wil print the adresez of canvassers who wil receive signatures at their places of biznes or houses. Persons in towns where no list is circulated, whether they are subscribers or not, are invited to send their names to the editor, to be attached to the petition. Write lengthwise on a postal-card, "Please attach my name to the petition for simplified spelling in the Government printing," sign it, and send it in. Our representatives at Washington naturally wil not take the desired action unless it iz demanded by the people; let us show them how great a demand for it exists!

Akropolis.—Here iz a spelling of "acropolis" that haz not yet got into the dictionaries. It iz used in the "History of Sicily," by E. A. Freeman, Clarendon Press, 1891.

OUR PETITION.

To the Senate and House of Representatives, in Congress assembled :

Your petitioners would respectfully represent that our present American orthography though much improved within the last hundred years, is cumbersome, illogical, unhistorical, and misleading; that millions of dollars are wasted, each year, in writing and printing unnecessary letters, while the progress of our children in their education is greatly retarded by the difficulties in the way of learning to spell. Your petitioners recognize the fact that in the future, as in the past, changes in our written language must be made by gradual steps. The modifications herein suggested have the indorsement of the highest scholarship in the land, and, if adopted, would serve as the entering wedge for the introduction of other reforms. Worthy precedents for such simplifications of spelling are afforded by the enlightened action of Austria and Germany in 1879 and 1880, regarding the German language, and, with respect to an important class of words in our own tongue, by the valuable work of the Board on Geographic Names, established by order of the President of the United States, September 4, 1890. Your petitioners believe, moreover, that these changes should be made at once in the printing done for the Government; and they therefore pray that your honorable body will adopt the following resolution, which was offered in the House of Representatives, by Hon. Allan C. Durborow, January 11, 1892:

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Public Printer be and is hereby directed, in all work for Congress and the Departments begun after the passage of this resolution, to adopt the following rules for amended spellings, except in educational and other works where a different orthography may be required ;

First. Drop *ue* at the end of words like dialogue, catalogue, etc., where the preceding vowel is short. Thus spell demagog, epilog, synagog, etc. When the preceding vowel is long, as in prorogue, vogue, disembugue, retain final letters as at present.

Second. Drop final *e* in such words as definite, infinite, favorite, etc., when the preceding vowel is short. Thus spell opposit, preterit, hypocrit, requisit, etc. When the preceding vowel is long, as in polite, finite, unite, etc., retain present forms unchanged.

Third. Drop final *te* in words like quartette, cobuette, cigarette, etc. Thus spell cigaret, roset, epaulet, vedet, gazet, etc.

Fourth. Drop final *me* in words like programme. Thus spell program, oriflam, gram, etc.

Fifth. Change *ph* to *f* in words like phantom, telegraph, phase, etc. Thus spell alfabet, paragraf, filosofy, fonetic, fotograf, etc.

Sixth. Substitute *e* for the diphthongs *æ* and *æ* when they have the sound of that letter. Thus spell eolian, esthetic, diarrhea, subpena, esofagus, athenæum, etc.

N. B.—No change in proper names.

The Durborow Resolution.—The prejudice against and the inertia in regard to spelling-reform remind one of the filling of a mill-pond. The dam standz az a barrier until the water rises to its top, and hwen this point iz reached small streams begin to run over, which gather strength and volume until they form a resistles torrent sweeping away all obstructions. The feeling in favor of spelling-reform iz growing and the top of the dam iz nearly reacht. Let us secure the adoption of Congressman Durborow's resolution for the introduction of a few new spellings in the public printing, and they wil soon be incorporated in the dictionaries and adopted by the people, who wil wonder why they had not done this thing before. This wil pave the way for the twenty-four rules of the Philological Society, which wil rapidli lead to phonotypy. At this time all differences should be dropped and we should unite in an aggressive fight for the Durborow resolution, trusting to its good effects to help us to the accomplishment of greater reforms.

HENRY R. BOSS.

ERRORS IN SPEECH.

To the Editor of OUR LANGUAGE :

I see that, besides spelling-reform every other interest of our language iz to be looked after by your most excellent and much needed journal. It seems to me that not only to *correct* errors in speech and writing, but also to giv *explanations* az wel, would make the journal so helpful that it would come to be regarded az indispensable to the educational advansment of thousands all over the country. Comparatively few persons, az yet, take eni interest in the reform of our spelling, farther than to *wish* that "spelling was easier;" but nearly everybody desires to speak correctly and pronounce accurately. Thousands of our people would jump at the help that a paper like yours offered them, for it would take only a litl of their time to *read* it, and they would not be required to *study*—a thing the average mind wil not do except under compulsion. Meni say, "O, if I could only know it withou-

having to study for it!" Such persons, after school-days are over, must be inveigled into learning by attractive books and papers.

I would like to help keep the ball rolling which you have set in motion, and so will give it a little push right here and now, by mentioning what, to me, is the most offensive of all the errors of speech, namely, that of saying "into" for "in."

During a summer vacation, I heard a young lady (belonging to one of the *élite* families of the place where I was staying) remark to another lady who was putting on her bonnet, "You look well into that bonnet." At another time when some water in a kettle had begun to boil, the same young lady called out, "Ma, the water is boiling into the kettle." I feel sure that the slang phrase "in it" becomes "into it" among these people.

Another offensive blunder heard there was that of using "seen" for "saw." They never *saw* anything, but they "seen it." From nearly everybody's lips were heard "I seen it," "I never seen it," "did you seen it"—until "seen" and "into" became actual dream-haunters, so that, sleeping or waking, between those two words and the mosquitoes (Oh, I didn't mean to let slip what State it was in) there could be no pleasant rest for those not accustomed to such annoyances. "Into" and "seen" are also used wrongly in this city, and by those who ought to know better.

I do not point out these mistakes from any love of criticizing, but I do want to arouse a proper "pride of speech" in some who are not sufficiently careful in such matters, and who never "seen" anything wrong "into" their way of speaking.

A. C. S.-B.

New York.

The Anglo-Saxon.—An interesting piece of spelling-reform history appears in *The Phonographic World* for December. Mr. Floyd T. Short, of San Francisco writes to the editor that the printer who set up the first phonetic paper published in America, Mr. L. C. Chandler, is still living in California. This paper, *The Anglo-Saxon*, was issued in Boston and New York for about a year and a half, beginning 23 January, 1847., Messrs. Andrews and Boyle being the editors and publishers. Mr. E. N. Miner, the editor of the *World*, has a bound file of the paper and publishes a reduced facsimile of a page of it with Mr. Short's letter.

OUR FAULTY PRONUNCIATION.

The correct pronunciation of English words is most important. Miss Anna Alward has carefully studied the best existing authorities upon the subject, and is able to correct mispronounced words that are frequently heard in the pulpit, lecture-room, theatre, or in daily conversation. Her charge for instruction is one hundred dollars a month. Address, etc.

The above is an advertisement which appeared recently in a New York newspaper. That a teacher should expect persons to pay \$100 a month to be taught how to pronounce their native language, indicates that the pronunciation of that language must be hard to learn. The reason why English speaking persons pronounce their own language poorly is that they learn the greater part of their vocabulary from the printed page, where each word is represented by a group of letters that may be pronounced in several ways. The chances are that the reader will fix upon one of the wrong ways, and so will pronounce the word wrong, when he uses it in speech. If English were spelled phonetically, as Spanish and Italian are, the printed word would be a perfect guide to the spoken word, and it could no longer be truthfully said that 'mispronounced words are frequently heard in the pulpit, lecture-room, theater, and in daily conversation.'

NEW BOOKS ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

[From *The Publishers' Weekly* (New York) and *The Publishers' Circular* (London) for the past month.]

Bosworth, J. An Anglo-Saxon Dictionary; based on the manuscript collections of the late Joseph Bosworth. Edited and enlarged by T. NORTHCOTE TOLLER, M. A. Part 4, Section 1. Q. London, 8s. 6d.

Bright, Jas. W. An Anglo-Saxon Reader; with notes and glossary, 292 p. D. New York, cl. \$1.75.

Choate, I: Bassett. Wells of English. 310 p., D. Boston, cl. \$1.50.

A review of the work of the minor writers of England of the 16th and 17th centuries, with brief comments on their influence upon English literature.

—"The Printer's Lexicon," by Mr. Boss, announced in No. 8, is being printed in the Durborow spelling. Messrs. Root & Turner, 57 Plymouth Place, Chicago, are the publishers.

—Mr. Isaac Pitman writes me that very many English newspapers are now willing to insert letters in reformed spelling.

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please say where you saw their
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which iz remarkable grammatically only for, the economy which dispensez with an article. It telz how the Department intendz the cards to be used, but does not forbid using them, in eni other way. Somewhat better than eni of the foregoing iz the inscription on the two-sent card; WRITE ONLY THE ADDRESS ON THIS SIDE. It contains no grammatical error, but printing or pasting enithing on the face of this card iz not forbidn.

The inscription on the Post Cards of Canada iz;—THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE, and on those of England:—THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE—neither of which is eni better than our own.

Anticipating the reader's natural challenge to make a better inscription than these that I hav criticized, I suggest for the consideration of the Postmaster-General.

PUT NOTHING BUT THE ADDRESS ON THIS SIDE.

HOW SPELLING DAMAGES THE MIND.

BY FREDERIK A. FERNALD.

(Concluded).

The most striking testimony to the irregularity of our spelling iz the adoption by some teachers of a sort of Chinese mode of teaching reading. The children are not taught that letters represent constituent sounds of words, but they learn to recognize each group of letters az an arbitrary compound symbol standing for a word. This iz more of a ded drag on the memory than even the A-B-C method, and, if it could be completely carried out, would be a vastly longer process. The effect on the mind iz certainly no better. The Chinese hav to memorize a compound symbol for each word in learning to read, but the patient endurance of such a burden iz not consistent with the character of eni other people than the submissive, imitative, unprogressive Chinese. The Japanese, who hav long been clogged by the same sistem, hav recently taken measures to throw it off.

"But what can be done?" wil be asked; "shall children grow up without learning to spel?" No, but the memorizing of these anomalies and contradictions can be, at least, put off til the pupils' minds are in litl danger of being perverted by it. Enough of the enormous amount of time spent in this drudgery can be saved to make possible the introduction of the study of *things* into the primary schools, and meni of the one hundred millions of dollars which we spend each year for *public education* can be turned to impart-

ing real knowledge insted of the mere tools of knowledge. These ends may be attained by the use of phonetic spelling az an introduction to the customary spelling. Children can and do learn to read English speld phonetically in a veri few lessons, and learn the traditional spelling so quickly afterward that much les time iz required for the whole process than iz commonly devoted to memorizing the current spelling alone. Classes taught to read in this way, in Massachusetts, so early az 1851, proved the advantage of the method to the satisfaction of that able educator, Horace Mann, and the method haz been successfully employed in meni places in this country and in the British Isles. The following extract from a letter ritn by Mr. William Colbourne, manager of the Dorset Bank, at Sturminster, England, sins deceased, furnishes a special example, though it may be conceded to be exceptionally favorable;

"My litl Sidney, who iz now a few months more than four years old, wil read eni phonetic book without the slightest hesitation; the hardest names or the longest words in the Old or New Testament form no obstacle to him. And how long do you think it took me—for I am hiz teacher—to impart to him this power. Why, something les than eight hours! You may believe it or not az you like, but I am confident that not more than that amount of time was spent on him, and that was in snatches of five minits at a time, while tea was getting redi. I know you wil be inclined to say: 'All that iz veri wel, but what iz the use of reading phonetic books? He iz stil az far off, and may be farther, from reading romanic books.' But in this you are mistaken. Take another example. Hiz next elder brother, a boy of six years, haz had a phonetic education so far. What iz the consequence? Why, reading in the first stage was so delightful and easy a thing to him, that he *taught himself* to read romanically, and it would be a difficult matter to find one boy in twenti, of a corresponding age, that could read half so wel az he can in eni book. Again, my oldest boy haz ritn more phonetic short-hand and long-hand, perhaps, than eni boy of hiz age (eleven years) in the kingdom; and no one I dare say haz had les to do with that absurdity of absurdities, the spelling-book! He iz now at a first-rate school in Wiltshire, and in the half-year preceding Christmas he carried off the prize for *orthography* in a contest with boys, some of them hiz senior by years!"

Mrs. E. B. Burnz, of New York, sez, in

regard to her experience at Nashville, soon after the civil war: "The phonetic teaching in the Fisk School, az elsewhere, proved beyond all cavil that with phonetic books az much could be accomplished in four months in teaching to read az by a year with the common method. And, moreover, it showed that there iz no difficulty experienced by children in passing from the phonetic to the ordinary printed books. After going through the phonetic primer and First and Second Reader, the children passed at once into the Second Reader in common print, and from the phonetic Gospel into the common New Testament." Successful experiments in common schools are on record in sufficient numbers to prove the practicability of the method.

Several phonetic primers hav been published and are used in some American and English schools, for teaching English in the schools of Paris, and by missionaries among the Indians and other peoples. With one of these books parents wil find it a light task to teach their children to read at home in a few lessons. Sins there are only twenti-six (or, counting *œ* and *æ*, twenti-eight) letters in our alphabet, while for phonetic printing means of representing forty sounds are needed, each of these books uses an extended form of the alphabet. Unfortunately, no one alphabet for the phonetic printing of English haz yet been agreed upon; stil, eni of these sistemz can be adopted for the schools of a siti or town, with the certainty of good results. The alphabet devised by the American Philological Association may be sed to be the most authoritative; it haz also the merit of employing only three new letters. I am not unaware of the efforts being made to replace the current spelling by a phonetic sistem for all purposes, but that iz a matter quite distinct from the subject of this article; and all who believe that the orderly and vigorous development of the mental faculties should be the chief end in education, whether they favor or oppose the spelling reform, can work together for the spred of the phonetic method of teaching reading.—*From The Popular Science Monthly for Sept., 1885.*

—The whole number of subscriptions to OUR LANGUAGE, 30 Jan., was 141. The paper took another long step toward girdling the earth last month. A copy now goes across the Pacific to a subscriber in Japan, almost meeting the one that goes around *via* Suez to British Burma.

Progress in the Spelling of OUR LANGUAGE.—While the policy of this paper iz conservative it iz also progressive. It by no means contemplates standing forever in one place. Accordingly the editor iz planning to make hiz spelling more phonetic in the second volume. The advans wil be made only in the articles on spelling-reform, so that subscribers who are interested only in the other subjects treated in OUR LANGUAGE may rest assured that their part of the paper wil not be made eni harder to read than it iz now.

—I hav the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of a pamphlet containing "The Duty of Literary Men," an adres delivered before the Indianapolis branch of the Society of Alumni of the Indiana Asbury University, by Rev. T. A. Goodwin, A. M., and published by Burnz & Co., of New York, in 1878. Mr. Goodwin in this adres called upon literary men to free the rising generation from the tyranny of the spelling-book and gave able answers to the common objections to spelling-reform.

—The "Journal of Proceedings and Addresses," for the session of 1891 of the National Educational Association, haz just been issued. This volume contains a record of the action of the Association on spelling-reform, reported in No. 6 of OUR LANGUAGE, also the report of its committee, drawn up by Mr. Brewster, the supplementary paper of Mr. Vickroy, and the remarks of Messrs. Lincoln, Houston, and Richards in discussion of the report, the whole occupying some thirteen octavo pages.

—A helpful essay "On Teaching the Effective Use of English," by Albert P. Marble, Superintendent of Schools in Worcester, Mass., appeared in the *Educational Review* for December and January. The February number of the *Review* wil contain a criticism of the prezent "Uniform Entrance Requirements in English" that hav been put in force by meni colleges in New England and elsewhere.

—An edition of the New Testament in phonetic spelling (Pitman's phonotypy) wil be published about the midl of March. Five hundred copies are going to the stations of the (American) Methodist Kongo Mission.

—Mr. Story's bil for "spelling schools" was introduced into the House of Representatives 15 Jan., by Hon. W. C. Newberry, of Ill. I shall giv some reasons why this bil should not pass in my next number.

Hoodlum.—The word "hoodlum" is composed of *Hudeln* or *Hudi* and *Lumpen*, which two words, according to German custom, are often used together with the conjunction *und* to give emphasis to the idea. *Haderlumpen* and *Hudilumpen* have been used in Germany for a long time, and are still used in identically the same sense as in this country (compare Sanders's "German Dictionary," vol. 1, p. 796). Sanders says there, in unmistakable language, that *Haderlumpen* or *Hudilumpen* are persons with which we wipe our feet.—G. GESSNER in *American Notes and Queries*.

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VOL. 1.

MARCH, 1892.

No. 12.

Dr. Alexander Hamilton, 57 Harbord St., Toronto, will receive subscriptions to OUR LANGUAGE in Canada.

The words speld phonetically in OUR LANGUAGE are those upon whose *final forms* all spelling-reformers agree. No transitional spellings are used. The editor believes that adopting a more radical policy before the way is prepared would serionally impair the usefulness of the paper.

All articles, letters, and quotations are speld in the style of the paper, except those that are inserted as illustrations of particular phonetic schemes.

A blue X on the wrapper of this number means that your subscription haz expired. The editor hopes that all expired subscriptions will be renewed promptly.

ENLARGEMENT OF "OUR LANGUAGE."

In the eleven numbers of this paper alredi issued advertisements hav occupied on an average two and one-fifth pages. The editor haz been glad to hav the support which the patronage of hiz advertisers haz yielded for the paper, but he haz now decided not to solicit eni more advertising for the prezent, and to devote all or nearly all of hiz space to reading-matter. The quantity of reading-matter in each number wil thus be increased by over two pages, which iz equivalent to enlarging the paper by that much. This change wil afford space for subjects that hav been too scantily or not at all represented heretofore, and wil thereby greatly enhans the value of the journal to subscribers.

Sins OUR LANGUAGE wil hereafter hav no other source of income than subscriptions and the sale of extra copies the editor hopes

that all who are interested in the kind of work that it iz doing wil feel impeld to contribute to its support. Up to the end of February 143 subscriptions had been received. It iz hoped that all of these wil be renewed, and that every subscriber who can afford to take more than one copy wil do so. The price of five copies iz \$2, and of ten copies, \$4. Nearly every one, even those who hav subscribed during the past month, haz ordered the paper from the beginning. I would suggest that the others should order the numbers that they lack, making their first year coincide with Volume 1, and send in a second subscription now for the second volume. I hav between 125 and 300 copies each of all the back numbers. Hwen OUR LANGUAGE haz grown to be a large and powerful magazine you wil be proud of being "a subscriber from the first number." The copies that were ordered and left for me to send to non-subscribing members of the Spelling Reform Association are being sent out regularly—to different members each month. There are 33 of these subscriptions and most of them do not expire until July. I hope to get meni new subscriptions for the coming year from supporters of spelling-reform who hav not contributed enithing toward the support of the movement during the past year. Reader, does this mean you?

Next month the advanced spelling wil be introduced in articles on spelling-reform.

In the recently published "Systematic Mineralogy," by the late Dr. Thomas Sterry Hunt, appear the new spellings, "chlolid," "sulphid," "phosphid," etc., also "oxyd."

SAY WHAT YOU MEAN.

Some "self-made" men hav declared that veri litt schooling iz needed az a preparation for biznes life, but probably no one wil deny that a boy should be wel grounded in those subjects that he iz destind to make practical use of. Every biznes-man iz liable to hav occasion to write advertisements, trade-catalogues, circulars, etc., and should know how to express himself with clearness and force, even if elegance be dispenst with. On a letter-hed from Batavia, N. Y., I find these words:—"The most symmetrical, best balanced, neatest looking gun of its kind ever before offered to the shooting public." That iz to say, 'the best gun ever offered before it was offered,' which iz absurd. Striking out "before" would correct this blunder. I hav seen a certain cooking appliance commended to persons of "veri moderate means." Now "moderate" iz here equivalent to medium, and its use az above iz like speaking of a man of "veri medium hight." The makers of a patent fuel, in telling how they crush the pitch that they use, say, "it being a peculiarity of this eccentric material that it disintegrates under concussion even hwen too plastic to resist hevi pressure." Here the meaning doubtless iz, "even hwen so plastic az to resist hevi pressure." An advertisement of one of the meni wonderful cough-mixtures begins thus: "You may say 'I hav not got consumption.' But if you don't stop that cough you wil wish you had"—not 'wish you had consumption' but 'wish you had stopped.'

It must be admited that professional writers sometimes make az bad mistakes in the use of language az biznes-men do. In the "American Cyclopædia" vol. x., p. 275, I find "Buff leather iz where this surface iz smoothed off." Buff leather iz not a place, and so it iz not "where," etc. In an old volume of *The Lancet* I once found a notice of the death of Agassiz beginning with, "The most versatile of living naturalists iz no more"—an Irish bull of English raising. But *The Lancet* iz a medical journal, and meni doctors hav entered the medical school whithout eni more knowledge of the English language than iz possessed by boys who go into biznes early. It was probably one of this class who wrote in a letter to *The New York Sun*, "Among the opium-victims who came to see me in the vain hope that I could do something for her relief, was a handsome cultured woman about 30 years of age." The pronoun "her" should be "their," for

all the victims are referred to in the part of the sentens where it occurs. The author of "Medical Economy during the Middle Ages," also a doctor, sez on p. 353, "before their arrival at the shores of Italy; the soldiery on board the transports were decimated almost to annihilation." Decimation means a loss of one in ten, which iz a hevi loss, but it does not reduce a body of troops "almost to annihilation." On account of the precise meaning of this term it can not be strengthened by adjectives—"frightfully decimated," for instance, would mean no more than "decimated," alone. The "Publisher's Preface" to a work on "Dyspepsia and its Kindred Diseases," contains this unsuccessful struggle with a big word:—"Az the last production of so eminent a specialist, it wil hav exceptionable claims on the public." The publisher ment "exceptional" and must hav been blisfully ignorant that he was giving hiz own goods a left-handed compliment. Some eight years ago there was published a book called "Off-hand Portraits of Prominent New Yorkers," in which this expression was used:—"Jay Gould's house iz an epitome of himself." Epitome means a condensation or abridgment, and a house that was a smaller edition of its owner would not be a commodious famili rezidens for a man of wealth.

HOW MENI VOWELS AND DIPHTHONGS IN ENGLISH?

The question now proposed for discussion in the pages of OUR LANGUAGE iz one on which meni opinions are held. The editor hopes that by bringing out and comparing these opinions it may become evident which one it iz most practicable to adopt. The question does not call for every shade of sound that can be detected in the utterances of eni good speakers of English, but only those that the *majority* of good speakers clearly distinguish. For scientific works on phonetics the most full and exact sistem of sound-notation that can be constructed iz highly desirable, but such a sistem would be altogether too cumbrous to use in common spelling.

Let us take az the basis of the discussion the vowel and diphthongal sounds which are distinguished in the respelling for pronunciation in "Webster's International Dictionary," and givn at the foot of each folio. Omitting four duplicates there are 27 of these.

(1) *a* in "ale." A clearly distinguishing sound, commonly called "long *a*." It consists of two parts: the first, which iz the

more prominent, iz the sound given to *a* in "senate" (2); the second and les prominent part iz called "the vanish," and iz usually identical with *i* in "ill," but in some syllables approaches *i* in "police." Hens our "long_i*a*" iz a compound vowel or diphthong.

(2) *a* in "senate." This sound iz heard only in unaccented syllables. It iz the French *é*, or English "long *a*" (1) without the vanish. The interjection "eh" also haz this sound. In quick or careless speech, *e* in "end," and in stil more careless speech *i* in "ill," iz substituted for it. Should there be a separate means for representing this sound in reformed spelling? The decision in this case wil hav a bearing on several other cases of slight difference between vowels in accented and in unaccented syllables. Hwen the accent iz put on a syllable containing (2) it becomes (1) e. g. "aggregate" (noun), "aggregation," hens it iz clearly the accent that makes the difference. If we are to hav separate symbols for these two sounds, (2) should be represented by a single letter, and (1) by the same letter followed by *i*, thus recognizing the compound character of the "long *a*." My own opinion iz that for a practical mode of spelling no distinction need be made between these two sounds, nor should (1) be ritn az a diphthong.

(3) *a* in "care." The status of this sound iz much disputed. In the United States it iz a diphthong consisting of *a* in "am" followed by *e* in "fern." In England it appears to be also a diphthong, but consisting of *a* in "senate" followed by *e* in "fern." This difference between English and American pronunciation must be taken account of in preparing a phonetic dres for the English language. Considering only the American usage some reformers maintain that this sound may be represented by the same letter az *a* in "am" because it only occurs before *r*. But this would not be safe, for the *a* in "am" also occurs before *r*. It would be a lame spelling that made no difference between "hairy" and "harry."

(4) *a* in "am." This iz a clearly distinguished simpl vowel, known az "short *a*."

(5) *a* in "arm." This iz also a distinct vowel; it iz called the "Italian *a*."

(6) *a* in "ask" and "sofa." Meni good speakers use (5) or (4) rather than this sound in monosyllables like "ask," "grass," "staff," "dance," etc., and hens would deny ts claim to representation in phonetic spelling. But its occurrence in "arise," "sofa," "diadem," "Messiah," and unaccented syllables of meni other words can not be disputed.

Admitting its existence iz it enough different from (5) to need a separate symbol? I am inclined to think it iz not.

(7) *a* in "final." The "International" describes this sound az occurring in unaccented syllables "closed" by a consonant. It need not be distinguished from (6) outside of the dictionaries.

These are all the "a's." Readers of OUR LANGUAGE are invited to express their views az to which of them should be ritn az distinct vowels or diphthongs in a practical phonetic spelling. I hav in hand two or three contributions bearing on the vowels that I hav held until this discussion should be opened, and shall now publish them.

Handsomere Print would be secured through phonetic spelling because it would make shorter syllables. Thus suppose a compositor iz near the end of a line, having space for four more letters. The next word in hiz copy iz "brought;" he can not get it all into that line and he can not divide it, so it goes over to the next line. Hiz remaining space must be fild out by putting wider spaces between the words alredi in the line, making ugly gaps compared with the spacing of other lines. If the word were speld phone ically, "brôt," it would go into the available space and this trouble would not occur. Matters would be improved in this respect by meni of the changes proposed in the resolution introduced into Congress by Mr. Durborow, for instance, by shortening the last syllable of such words az "catalogue," "gazette," and "programme," and to a les extent in the other classes of words affected.

In "The Book-buyer" (Scribners) for February, Mr. Arlo Bates, the Boston correspondent, makes an excellent plea for spelling-reform, and proposes az a new idea the addition of some new or marked vowels to the alphabet. He declares that "the spelling-reform people" advocate a "crazy and impossible sistem of phonetics," ignorant of the fact that the alphabet of the S. R. Association makes just the addition to the alphabet which he proposes and no other.

The School Journal, *The Twentieth Century*, and *The Printers' Album* hav generously givn space to the rules of the Durborow Resolution. *The Troy (Kan.) Times* prints the full text of the petition preceded by a full and appreciative statement of the desirability of simplified spelling.

FOR A BEGINNING.

(Spelled according to the Five Rules.)

There must be a *beginning* in spelling-reform. As has been amply demonstrated in the last half-century, the habits and practice of two hundred millions of English-speaking people can not be changed at one stroke. The reform must come, if at all, by gradual steps. This has been the history of our progress from the time when Johnson's Dictionary was published, the changes being so gradual as hardly to produce a ripple save when Noah Webster put the stamp of authority upon a large number, which received almost universal assent in this country. Now that the scholarship of the world is nearly a unit in favor of radical reform, it is confronted with the fact that it has a herculean task. The printers—who are most affected by the proposed changes, and whose assent *must* be had before any great reform in this direction can be reached—have had their brains and their hands educated to the present order of things, and on their skill depend for a livelihood. While they would be willing to adopt some changes, such as would not interfere with this, they will not consent to revolutionize the habits of a lifetime and incur an expense involving hundreds of thousands of dollars for this purpose. Whatever changes are proposed to them should be in the form of positive, definite rules,—not an arbitrary selection of occasional words, necessitating a repetition in part of the old, laborious process of learning to spell by rote,—so that they may accommodate themselves to the new order with the least trouble and expense.

The best plan for a beginning that has yet been devised—for it complies with all the conditions above named—is that proposed in the resolution offered in Congress by Hon. Allan O. Durborow, directing the Public Printer to conform to certain rules for new spellings in all printing done in the Government Printing-Office. While the adoption of this resolution would mark a decided step in the direction of reform and simplification, the proposed rules are so conservative in their nature that the least advanced in the direction of spelling-reform are willing to conform to them *as soon as everyone else does*. Enforce these new spellings in the public printing, and the dictionaries, as recording established usage, will give them place; the printers, having dictionary authority, will conform to them, and the people, having had their eyes educated to the sight of them, will wonder why these things had not been thought of before. Having demonstrated how easy it is to reform our spelling, we will find everyone willing to go much farther in the omission of useless letters, until the "24 rules" come in vogue; and the task then before the printers and scholars will be simply to devise and promulgate a phonetic alphabet that shall be satisfactory to all.

Let us begin in popularizing the reform by the adoption of Congressman Durborow's proposed rules.

HENRY R. BOSS,

THE OBJECTIVE CASE OF PRONOUNS.

In trying to avoid saying "me," "him," and "her" where they ought not to, many persons overshoot the mark and use "I," "he," and "she" improperly. I have heard a school teacher in this city say, "They came and took my sister and I for a drive." If her sister had not gone, this young lady never would have said "They took I." Among my newspaper clippings I find the following headlines from the *Providence (R. I.) News*:

"A SPIRITED GIRL.

She Shoots Two Men Who Betrayed She and Her Sister."

Now if the girl would fire a blank cartridge at the reporter who wrote "she" up, she might be exempted from further pistol practice. The phrase "us girls" is fiercely denounced by teachers of grammar. To be sure it is bad English to say "I don't think us girls will go," but it is just as bad a blunder to say "I wonder if they mean to invite we girls."

MR. STORY'S SPELLING SCHOOLS.

Mr. Chas. A. Story, of Chicago, has got his bill for "spelling schools" introduced into Congress again. It is a big scheme, commensurate with all the other big things of this big country. Briefly, it proposes to appropriate \$5,000,000 to maintain for one year a school in each of the hundred largest cities of the United States, for the purpose of exploiting Mr. Story's mode of phonetic spelling. Mr. Story is to have the sole direction of expending all this money, and is to get half a million out of it for his services and the use of his method. Fifty thousand more is called for to provide another school at the Columbian Exposition, and of this Mr. Story would likewise get ten per cent. This bill ought to be entitled, in Congressional language, "A Bill for the relief of Chas. A. Story," for it would benefit him more than anybody else. There is no danger of its passing Congress or even of its being reported by the committee to which, in due course, it was referred. But the cause of spelling-reform will suffer if this presumptuous scheme is not emphatically repudiated in the name of the spelling-reformers of the United States. Mr. Story's mode of spelling shares in the excellencies of all phonetic spelling, but it is no better than a dozen other modes, and it is more cumbersome than many, for it is part of a plan for spelling several languages. If the people of the United States have \$5,000,000 to spare for exhibitions of phonetic spelling,

outside of schools alredi organized, a commission, composed of men of at least equal scholarship and executive ability with Mr. Story, and of much greater unselfishness, can be had to conduct them for les than half a million dollars salary.

ORIGIN OF THE TERM "GRIPPE."

La Médecine moderne givz an extract from a meteorological journal kept at Versailles in the 18th century and published in the *Bulletin de la Société météorologique*, session of 8 May, 1866. In this journal the meteorological variations are carefully noted, day by day, with remarks on the important atmospheric disturbances (storms, frost, etc.) The following iz a reproduction of the part of the journal concerning the first quarter of the year 1743. * * * "During the month of February and the month of March there were meni colds and much inflammation of the chest in Versailles and in Paris. *The king called this disease la grippe.*" * * * It appears from this document that it was King Louis XV. who christened with the name of *grippe* the influenza, or influence which reigned at that time.—*Translated from La Revue Scientifique*, 16 Jan. 1892, for OUR LANGUAGE.

THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN PHILOLOGY AND GRAMMAR.

BY JOHN EARLE, M.A.

[Rawlinsonian Professor of Anglo-Saxon in the University of Oxford.]

In etymological studies the essential point of the inquiry iz this: What did the men of old mean by such and such a name? What was it that they predicated hwen they so named this object or that action? Hwen they made, for instance, the word "daughter," what did they mean to say about her? did they mean to call her "milkmaid"? That iz the essential question of etymology now, and so it haz been from the first. Hwen Cicero surmised that *animus* ("soul") was from *anima* ("air"), he ascribed to the men of old the thought that there was a something in man for which the air, which iz so vital and so invizibl, furnished the aptest emblem. In respect of its main intention the view of etymology iz what it always was, and it haz suffered no change. Comparative philology haz not altered the aim of etymology, but it haz led us to a securer method of attaining that aim. Grimm's law haz furnished the basis of that scientific method which we call "phonetics." By phonetics we understand a subsidiary method which enables us to match

the material equivalent, the physically corresponding equivalent, among related dialects. If we would know our way about in the study of English, we must rightly apprehend the function of phonetics. Let it, then, be wel understood that this iz a subsidiary and instrumental study and that it iz wholly concerned with the external or bodily part of language. Etymology haz a mental aim, but it iz concerned with physical problems, and it employs a physical instrumentality in dealing with them. This pursuit leads us farther and farther from that which iz inward and of prime educational value. Some primary elements of phonetics are good in education; but all beyond this belongs to the specialist. Hwen we get beyond Grimm's law; hwen we are drivn to supplement it with the more recondite observations of Verner's law; hwen we attain to speculate about roots; hwen we proceed to investigate the muscular adjustments by which the vowels and consonants are vocally produced,—we are no longer in the relm of common human interests: the popular charm of etymology haz fled. The bulk of educated men can never hav more than the most general ideas about these matters, such general ideas az they are fain to be contented with about chemistry, meteorology, or spectrum analysis.

On the other side iz the mental analysis, which iz mainly represented by the doctrine of the parts of speech. This iz in fact grammar in the old-fashioned sens of the term. It was grammar in this sens that furnished their specific title to those schools which sprang up numerously in England after the revival of classical learning, and caused them to be called "grammar schools." During the last four centuries, grammar haz been learned through the medium of Latin and Greek in the upper educational ranks while it haz been learned through the medium of English only in the lower half of the educational world. The egzistens of English grammar haz hardly been known except in schools below the grammar-school level, such az commercial and elementary schools, to which might be aded (until quite lately) the girls' schools of every grade; and, az a consequence, English grammar haz been but feebly cultivated. Upon Latin grammar there haz been some expenditure of talent; but az for the English grammars, they hav been mostly faint reflections of the Latin grammar. With the exception of Robert Lowth,* I know of

* "A Short Introduction to English Grammar," 1762.

no eminent scholar who haz givn the subject eni serious attention. The only name worthy to be grazed with the title of "English grammarian" iz that of Dr. Lindley Murray, and he was an American.

Grammar iz not, however, the peculiar property of eni language or group of languages. It iz psychological, and therefore universal in its nature. It iz a study which, though conducted through the medium of language, adresez itself to phenomena of mind; its prinsiplz do not depend upon language except in their manifestation; it iz (if I may so speak) prior to language; and it gov- erns not only the study, but the veri jenesis, of language itself.

Grammar iz the study of language in its true nature; and hens it comes to pass that the aim of grammar iz coincident with the purpose of language; it iz in the same line and direction with the proper use of language. The biznes of language is to predicate. In this one word the whole matter may be sum- med up: the use of language iz to predicate, that iz, to say something of some subject. In the view of grammar every word iz valued by its relation to the act of predication and its share in that act: upon this one prinsipl it gathers all words into a small group of cate- gories, and these categories are the parts of speech.

It iz only necessary to state these obvious facts in order to clear the essential distinction between grammar and philology. Grammar, then, iz the analisis of mental action in the use of language: philology is the analisis of the composition of words with reference to those physical organs whereby speech iz rendered vocal. By grammar, language iz laid alongside of the mind: by philology it iz laid alongside of the larynx. The outcome of grammar iz the doctrine of the parts of speech: the outcome of philology iz the physical structure of words, the precision of etymology, and the doctrine of roots.—From "*The Study of English*," in *The Forum for March*.

The editor haz been requested to state that Miss Alward's price for instruction in English pronunciation, givn in an advertisement that was made the text of some remarks in the last number, haz been changed. Her terms are now five dollars an hour, and those who desire her instruction can communicate with her in care of "The Alpine", Broadway and 33rd St., New York.

ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION.

BY THE REV. JOSEPH HAMILTON.

I agree with the writers who hav been pro- testing in the *The Independent* against the growing vulgarisms in pronunciation. Some of these may be due to a sili affectation of what iz considered English, but all are not so. Here in California we hav people from New York State who can not yet say *park* or *parlor*; they say *pahk* and *pahlah*; yet some of them hav been here for twenty years. I believe that omission of the letter *r*, which iz considered so essentially English, iz quite pre- valent in New York State; but it iz not con- fined to it. Wherever it originated, it iz wrong. The letter ought to be sounded; but not made emphatic, except in some cases where it might be rolled slightly at the be- ginning of a word. The commonest and most marked ommission of the *r* iz at the end of the word, as in *ye-ah* for year, *riv-ah* for river, etc. Both in England and some parts of America that vulgarism iz peculiarly em- phatic.

The long sound of *a* iz corrupted in Eng- land into a vowel between *a* and *i*, as *da-i* for day, *tra-ine* for train. It iz a softer and more musical vowel than the bare *a*, but it iz not correct. Sometimes the *a* iz quite lost in the *i*. That disposition of the *a* iz found, I think, only in England. So, also, I believe, iz the corruption of the long *o* into *ou*. A cockney can not say *boat* or *coat*; he says *bout* and *cout*.

The *i* iz veri impure in England, especially in the Midlands, where it iz corrupted into a very broad *ai*. The Englishman there sez *good-noight*, az the South of Ireland man sez *good-noight*, which, if not more correct, iz more musical. In Scotland and the North of Ireland you hear the pure sound of *i*, az you do generally in America.

There iz a widespread vulgarism among American people which calls for special con- demnation, the more so az it iz not wholly eschewed by meni persons of professed cul- ture. I refer to the use of the word *az* for *that*, az in the phrase, I don't know az it matters. "[*Obs.*, and replaced by *that*; but stil common in Southern dialect speech."—*Murray's New English Dictionary*. "Only in dialectal use. Colloq. New Eng."—*Century Dictionary*.—*Ed. Ind.*] This vulgar- ism may be copied from the English, but I think not, for it iz only the very illiterate of the English that use it. Here it iz met with among people of education, and I hav seen it in the books and magazines. The celebrated

Tichborne claimaint, so notorious some years ago, iz sed to hav expressed himself in the following terms: "Er iz some people az haz money an' hazn't brains, an' 'er iz some people az haz brains an' hazn't money; an' 'em az haz money an' hazn't brains iz made for 'em az haz brains an' hazn't money." This iz unique, whether we take it az a prinsipl in ethics, or a sampl of classic English. Let me giv you one stanza of "The May Queen" done into cockney dialect:

"You must wike and caw-awl me eah-ly,
Call me eah-ly, moth-ah de-ah;
To-mowow will be the 'eppiest taim
Of aw-awl the gled new ye-ah;
Of aw-awl the gled new ye-ah, moth-ah,
The med-dest, mewiest dy;
Faw I'll be queen of the My, moth-ah,
I'll be queen of the My."

—*The Independent.*

The Circulation of the Petition for the Durborow Resolution iz going on actively. Within a few days after he began canvassing Mr. Boss had sent in one list of 96 names to the representative from hiz district, and I see by the *Congressional Record* that it haz been duly prezented to the House. Copies of the petition hav been sent out to canvassers in all parts of the country, and more can be had from Mr. Boss, 232 Irving Av., Chicago, or from the Editor of OUR LANGUAGE. The Editor and several other persons are circulating lists in New York siti with good success. A number of the postal-card signatures that were invited last month hav been sent in, but I fear that meni of those who wil hav no other opportunity to sign hav been "putting off" the sending of a card. Each canvasser should get all the names that can be had in hiz neighborhood, and send hiz list to Washington before the end of March, so that the influence of the petition may be felt all at one time and before it iz too late.

Authors and the Durborow Rules.—At one of the early meetings of the Spelling Reform Association, it was recommended that its members, and especially its philological and literary leaders, should desire publishers to whose periodicals they contributed, to put their articles in revised spelling. It iz probable that want of definit opinions on the part of the leaders themselvz, az to what this revised spelling should be, haz been a potent reason why publishers can now truthfully say: "We hav not been asked by authors to use new spellings." All wil admit that even

the Five Rules were, in meni cases, difficult of application; but there iz such perfect definitnes in the Six Rules of the Durborow Resolution, that they might wel be insisted on by valued contributors to the best periodicals. Will not the leaders of the S. R. A. now really lead in this practical manner? Az Professor Whitney haz sed: "A beginning eniwhere, of eni kind, iz what iz most needed."

ELIZA B. BURNZ.

LITERARY NOTES.

In the January number of *The Normal College Echo*, (New York siti), iz an article by Mrs. E. B. Burnz on "Phonography and Phonetics." It contains a sound statement of the value of phonetic spelling, and phonetic methods of teaching children to read, the whole being excellent reading for embryo teachers. An editorial in the same number refers appreciatively to this article, and announces that Mrs. Burnz haz in preparation a primer which begins by making the child realize that a word iz composed of sounds, not letters, and uses progressive reading lessons in which a child may use hiz reason az wel az his memory.

"A Pack of Fools" iz the startling title of a vigorous hygienic pamphlet ritn and published by Henry S. Chase, M. D., St. Louis, Mo. The text iz spelt according to the Five Rules of the S. R. A. It iz illustrated and the price iz ten sents.

A pamphlet of 32 pages entitled "How shall we write?" iz published by D. Kimball, 94 La Salle St., Chicago, Ill. It iz devoted to setting forth the merits of the sistem of shorthand called Takigrafy. It contains an excellent statement of the absurdities of the ordinary mode of representing speech, and iz printed in a moderately simplified spelling. Sent free by the publisher, or D. P. Lindsley 6 Union Pl., Brooklyn, N. Y.

"The American Alphabet" devised by John M. Mott, 4020 Ellis Av., Chicago, which was noticed in January, haz been revised and much improved. It provides means for rëpresenting 45 sounds if we regard az legimate the rule that *a*, *e*, and *u* are followed by *r* hwen they hav the sounds that they hav in "air", "verge", and "urge." The rule iz defective because it would cause the verb "harry" and the adjective "hairy" to be spelt alike. New letters are provided for the diphthongs and for the six consonants often ritn with digraphs, but these are not insisted on. Enough new vowels are included to giv each long or short vowel a separate letter.

Besides making the English alphabet phonetic Mr. Mott introduces other changes for the convenience of printers. He brings *j*, *p*, and *y* wholly above the line, and cuts off part of the tail of *g*.

Probably half a dozen phonetic alphabets have been named "The American." If this name were resigned to the one to which it was first applied, and the others were to be differently named, the latter would stand a better chance of becoming widely known.

Mr. L. L. Lockling, Bridgeport, Conn., kindly sent me his "American Alphabet" (Copyrighted, Oct., 1879) some months ago and it has not yet been mentioned in OUR LANGUAGE. It recognizes all the sounds in the alphabet of the S. R. Assoc. except "oi," and a separate letter *iz* provided for each sound. Sins capitals and small letters have the same form in this alphabet, a large number of old consonant forms are discarded or employed for other sounds, both vowels and consonants. There are also some new letters introduced, so that altogether about twenty new letters or old letters with new uses are employed. Mr. Lockling has also designed graceful script forms for all his new letters. The alphabet with the explanatory matter and a specimen of print are handsomely printed on a large chart.

PARTICLES.

COMPARISONS OF THE INCOMPARABLE.—"Just as the dyer's or bleacher's whitest white is a *blue* white, his blackest black is usually an *olive green* black."—*The Engineering and Mining Journal*.

A DIFFERENCE.—Anxious Wife—What is his ailment, doctor?

Physician—I pronounce it paresis, madam. Boston Sick Man (feebly)—According to recent authorities, you—don't pronounce it—correctly. The accent—*iz* on the—first syllable.—*Chicago Tribune*.

MURRAY UNKNOWN.—Recently a brilliant paragrapher of this city made a little item to the effect that Mayor Mosby and a party of friends had had a little dinner at the Burnet House, and that the Mayor had quite a tussle with Lindley Murray. His honor saw the paragraph, and a few days after, on meeting the writer said, "By the way, what did you mean by saying I had a tussle the other night with Lindley Murray? Why, I don't know Murray." To which the answer came at once, "*I know you don't*."—*Cincinnati Times Star*.

NEW BOOKS ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

[From *The Publishers' Weekly* (New York) and *The Publishers' Circular* (London) for the past month.]

Blavatsky, H. P. The Theosophical Glossary, 390 p., O. London, 12s. 6d.

Carpenter, G. R. Exercises in Rhetoric and English Composition, 2d ed., 134 p., D. Boston, cl. net 50 cents.

Earle, John. The Philology of the English Tongue. 5th ed., newly revised and somewhat augmented, 710 p., O. London and New York, \$2.25.

Fenby, T. Dictionary of English Synonyms. 4th ed., 270 p., D. Liverpool, 2s. 6d.

Johnston, J. B. Place Names of Scotland, 350 p., O. Edinburgh, 7s. 6d.

Lockwood, Mrs. Sara E. H. An English Grammar for the Higher Grades in Grammar Schools; adapted from "Essentials of English Grammar," by W. D. WHITNEY. 5 + 253 p., D. Boston, 80 cents.

Morris, M. C. F. Yorkshire Folk Talk; with characteristics of those who speak it in the North and East Ridings, 396 p., O. London, 7s. 6d. net.

Nichols, T. N. Christian Names of Men and Women Popularly Explained, D. London, 1s.

Saintsbury, G. Ed. Pocket Library of English Literature. 3 v., sq. 18mo., cl. New York, \$3. Contents: Tales of mystery, Political verse, Defoe's humor novels.

On 25th Feb. a memorial was presented to Congress asking for the adoption of a "national alphabet" to be prescribed for use in the Government printing, and to be recommended to the public for general use. The memorial originated with Mr. John M. Mott, and is reported to be signed by all the type-founders of Chicago.

THE PHONOGRAPHIC WORLD.

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Our Language.

DEVOTED TO

PRESERVING, EXTENDING, AND IMPROVING THE ENGLISH SPEECH.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY, AT 3 BOND STREET, NEW YORK.

FREDERIK A. FERNALD, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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Dr. Alexander Hamilton, 57 Harbord St., Toronto, wil reseiv subscriptionz in Canada.

The prise ov subscription in Ingglad and other cuntriz ov the Postal Union iz 2 s. 1 d., or its equivalent. No charje for postaje.

The prezent speling ov this paper iz not intended to be final, for it includez formz ov some wordz that need to be further modified. It represents the farthest staje ov agreement that speling reformerz hav reacht, and iz based on the two folowing rulez:—

1. SILENT LETERZ. Drop all silent leterz.

2. TWENTI SOUNDZ. Let the sound most comonli represented by each ov the twenti folowing leterz be always so represented:—*a* (short), *b*, *d*, *e* (short), *f*, *g*, *h*, *i* (short), *j*, *l*, *m*, *n*, *p*, *r*, *s*, *t*, *v*, *w*, *y* (consonant), *z*.

N. B.—Exeptionz may be made hwere the operation ov either rule woud disguise the pronunsiation ov a word. Proper namez ar also exeptionz.

All artielz and leterz on speling-reform ar speld in the style ov the paper except those that ar inserted az ilustrationz ov particular fonetic schemez.

A blu X on the rapper ov this number meanz that your subscription haz expired. The editor hopes that all expired subscriptions wil be renewed promptli.

Removal.—Attention iz calld to the chanje ov the editor's adres to 3 Bond St., New York.

—Won ov our speling-reform workerz haz been having a liveli tilt with the editor ov the *Kansas Chief* (Troy, Kan.) in the columz ov that paper. Each parti haz a colum artiel in a resent issue. Such discusionz, evn if the opposition iz stubborn, can not fail to do good.

REVIEW OV THE YEAR.

A year ago veri meni personz imajind that speling-reform was ded. They had not seen a fonetic publication or red eni newz of speling-reform for a long time. A New York newzpapper aluded to the movement last summer az an "almost egzausted fad." But in the last twelv months over 10,000 copiz ov OUR LANGUAGE hav been distributed, and meni timez ten thouzand personz, who hav not seen the paper itself, hav been made aware throu advertizments and editorial mentionz ov it, and extracts from its pajez in other periodicalz, that a new jurnal had been started in the interest ov speling-reform. Substantial evidenz haz thus been givn that speling-reform iz stil a living issue, and the movement doubtles haz been considerabli strengthend thereby in public estimation. It may be asumed also that not a few personz hav had their attention drawn to speling-reform for the first time by this paper.

OUR LANGUAGE haz also servd az a medium for the interchanje ov ideaz among reformerz scaterd from the Atlantic to the Pasific; it haz cronicld the speling-reform newz ov the year; it haz broht out the preferens ov its readerz in the matter ov "*C versus K*" it haz asertaind how the leading publisherz ov the United States stand in respect to publishing in amended speling; it haz elisited an aproval ov fonetic speling from Mr. Herbert Spencer; it haz aided the employment ov the re-speling method ov teaching reading; and it haz taken part in bringing speling-reform to the attention ov Congress.

Publishing this paper haz cost money—

much more than it haz broht in. At the end ov the first year the publisher findz that he iz out over \$160.00, and now an anser must be givn to the question Shal OUR LANGUAGE be continued? The expensenz and income ov the paper for the first year ar givn below:

Expenditures.		Receipts	
Printing	\$300.98	Subscriptionz	
Postaje	20.16	(to Vol. I.)	\$59.66
Stationeri	4.45	Salez ov copiz	8.70
Carfare	4.00	Advertizing	93.65
Miselanews	4.68	Miselanews	4.75
Editor's salari	.00		
	334.27		
Publisher's profit (!)	-167.51		
	166.76		166.76

For another year, by redusing the number of copiz printed from 1,250 to 500 and profitng a litl by experiens, I can make my printing bilz \$60.00 les; other nesessari expensenz wil be about \$20.00, making the total \$260.00. I can not aford to contribute az much money to speling reform everi year az I did last, but I wil giv \$50.00 toward the expensenz ov this paper for the current year. How meni wil giv one-tenth or even one-hundredth az much? If everi speling-reformer in the United States woud subscribe for won copi, a magazine ov 48 pajez monthli could be furnisht for 50 sentz. A great meni who hav seen OUR LANGUAGE hav neglected to subscribe for it. Do not wait too long "to see if it iz going to liv" before risking 50 sentz to help it liv. It woud be ded now if all had done that. Do not refuze your suport becauz it doez not reprezent your viewz in ful—you woud cut off your daili or weekli newzpaper by such a test. The pajez ov this paper ar open to all shadez ov opinion, so it iz not the fault ov the editor if yourz iz not prented. Everi reformer wil admit that it advocates nothing that he doez *not* approve.

Notwithstanding the hevi defisit ov the first year, OUR LANGUAGE haz done az wel az meni new journalz that afterward become hihli prosperus. I can see dayliht ahed and so shal keep riht on. The paper wil hav no income from advertizing this year, but dropping the advertizments allowz a saving in printing and in my own time that fulli balansez this, besidez making the paper more valuabl to subscriberz. I trust that frendz ov speling-reform wil giv me activ help in *enlarjing the subscription-list*. Mr. Boss haz

givn me an electrotpe of the folowing paragraf, and I hav had a lot ov slips printed from it to encloze in letterz:

Are you a subscriber to OUR LANGUAGE? If not, send 50 cents to Frederik A. Fernald, No. 3 Bond St., New York, and become one. Better still, subscribe for several copies, and have them sent to your friends.

I shal distribute thezse slips to frendz whom I hav ocaasion to rite to, or who offer to uze them.

During March, 14 new subscriptionz came in, making the total number reseivd within the first year 157. Starting with this number the second year can not fail to be more prosperus than the first, which started from nothing. A litl more earnest work and the reform ov Ingglisch speling wil hav a secureli establisht organ.

The New Speling.—Heretofore the fonetic speling in this paper haz been restricted to wordz that could be chanjd wonse for all—without "making two bites at a cherry," az an Ingglisch corespondent aptli puts it. Efemeral or transitional formz ov wordz hav been rijidli excluded, not that the editor objects to such spelingz in a *reform periodical*, but he deemz it unwize to urje their adoption in eni book that iz expected to liv more than a few yearz. Furthermore, there ar meni hostil editorz who ar too stupid or pervers to discriminate between transitional and final formz. I did not wish to giv eni ov thezse jentri who miht mention the first apearans ov OUR LANGUAGE a chans to parade efemeral spelingz az being hwat the speling-reformerz want for finalitiz. Experiens haz proved the wizdom ov this course, for in none ov the adwers noticez that I hav seen haz there been eni attempt to make meri over a speling found in this paper. This danjer iz now mostli past, for OUR LANGUAGE iz no longer a novelti, and the explanation ov its speling which stands at the hed ov the first paje oht to be protection enuf in future.

Other reaznz for introdusing the new speling hwich apearz in this number ar that the speling az formerli restricted did not reali cari out my own prinsipl ov reprezentng the agreement so far ataind. Moreover, some frendz az wel az oponents did not seem abl to comprehend the former speling, and often pointed out hwat they thoht were inconsistencies. Stil others did not seem to appreciate the nesessiti for *union* in reform work, and wer dissatisfied becauz my chanjez wer

so moderate. Now, however, it can be sed that OUR LANGUAGE goez az far in the direction ov fonetic speling az it iz posibl to go without antagonizing a section ov our own parti. Further advancez must wait on the progres ov agreement throu discussion. The TWENTI SOUNDZ idea and the dropping ov silent leterz include veri nearli all the chanjez made by the Twenti-four Rulez ov the Philological Societies and ar an advans beyond them. Moreover, my speling doez *not* include enithing at varians with the prinsiplz that the Societies hav laid down.

THE SPREAD OF ENGLISH.

English is gaining ground fast in many ways. The continent is overrun with English travelers, and there is scarcely a hotel or a first-rate shop where English, or at least "English as she is spoke," can not be counted on with certainty. Our countrymen have now little need of that nervous "continental English" which Kinglake so humorously describes. In Germany again English has taken the place of French as the first foreign language to be learnt. In Russia it is the same. Dr. Lansdell, writing in 1883, says that to speak English in Russia and Siberia was becoming more fashionable than to speak French. "On peut," said his informant, winging his shaft against the French Eagle with its own feathers, "On peut oublier maintenant le Français pour apprendre l'Anglais." [One may now forget French in order to learn English.] He further asserts that Russians prefer English to their own language for use in telegrams, as conveying more meaning in few words. Another sign of the times was afforded by the conference respecting Samoa in 1889. The deliberations in that conference were not conducted in French but English, for the sake of the American Commissioners, the German representatives being all able to speak in our tongue.*

In uncivilized regions the triumph of English is, needless to say, even more complete. Dr. Blyden, himself a Liberian, tells us that it has everywhere on the coast of Africa driven out all other European languages. Even in the French colony of Gaboon it is asserting itself against French; even in the German Kameruns it divides the honors with German. It has no dangerous rival in Africa except Arabic.

* * * *

* [This incident illustrates also the common linguistic deficiencies of American Commissioners and Consuls.—*Editor*.]

There are already signs that English is becoming the literary language of Europe. Professor Vambéry, a Hungarian, published his autobiography first in an English dress: the Dutch author of "The Sin of Joost Aveiling" wrote his novel, "An Old Maid," in English; and the author of the "The Crustacea of Norway," himself presumably a Norwegian, frankly owns in his advertisement that, to obtain the largest possible circulation for his book, it will be written in the English language. — *From "The Universal Language," by C. R. Haines, in Macmillan's Magazine for March.*

Subscriptionz paid.—Payment ov the subscription to Vol. 2 ov OUR LANGUAGE haz been reseivd, in the month ov March or erlier, from the folowing personz. A plus after the name meanz that more than won copi iz taken.

W. Boyd. +	A. H. Mackay.
G. C. Baum.	J. M. Mott.
Mrs. E. B. Burnz. +	A. J. Pierce.
C. E. Cardew.	Dr. J. E. Parsons.
F. J. Child.	E. L. Pontifex.
E. H. Currier (Vols. 2, 3, and 4).	C. E. Sprague.
	S. N. Stewart.
Mrs. G. Davies.	J. A. Stuart.
Rev. Prof. John Earle.	J. H. Stevens.
H. V. Fitch.	C. V. Stevens.
A. Heisholt.	R. Tombo.
D. Kimball (Vols. 2 and 3).	W. D. Whitney. +
	Dr. T. B. Welch. +
R. A. Linden.	J. C. Williams.
T. R. Lounsbury.	E. J. Wilcox.
L. Lyon. +	J. H. Wigmore.

Noah Porter, D.D., LL.D., Ex-President of Yale College, died in New Haven, March 4th, at the age of 80 years. He was editor-in-chief of the 1864 revised edition of Webster's Dictionary, and of the "International" edition, 1890. He was favorably disposed toward simplified spelling, but was not connected with any active work in its behalf.

—A remarkably entertaining article on "Baboos, Bulls, Blunders, etc.," by Major-Gen. Patrick Maxwell, appears in *The Gentleman's Magazine* for March. Besides errors of Hindus and Continental Europeans in the use of English and in making translations from it, the article contains some amusing mistakes made by English persons in the use of foreign languages, and a number of cases of corruption which English words have suffered at home.

EXCURSIONS AMONG WORDS.

BY EUGENE FIELD.

There are now, we think, 120,000 words in the English language; the possibilities in the use of synonyms are remarkable, and we should say that to the study of synonyms the young writer should apply himself diligently. To the newspaper writers we are looking with solicitude and hope, for the reason that outside of the columns of the press our literature does not appear to be making any progress at all. Our literature of the press is, on the other hand, constantly improving, and in the last ten years that improvement has been marked. Still there is a chance for improvement, and it occurs to us that the besetting sin of our newspaper writers at this time is a devotion to absurdisms—for example, the too common usage of that negroism 'like' for 'as if'; 'It looks like it was going to rain.' This absurdity runs riot in print south of Mason and Dixon's line, and has crept across the line here in the West to shock us with a sporadic appearance in our diurnal publications.

There is no such word as 'wended'; the past of 'wend' is 'went.' A man cannot be said to have wended his way. He either went his way or he has went his way.

'Likewise' is often erroneously used for 'also'; *likewise* couples actions or states of being; *also* classes together things or qualities.

'Commence' should not be used when 'begin' can be instead.

'Transpire' is never a synonym of 'happen.'

'Weary' is a transitive verb only; it is, therefore, highly improper to say 'One wearies of life.'

Do not use 'in our midst' when you mean 'in the midst of us.'

Do not use 'anyhow' when you mean 'anyway.'

Be exceedingly careful in placing that small but potent word 'only.' Nine times out of ten it is misplaced.

Do not confound 'evidence' with 'testimony.'

Never use 'above' as an adjective. 'The above extract' is a barbarism. Nor should you ever use 'then' as an adjective—*e. g.*, 'the then king'—awful!

Do not confound 'try' with 'make.' You make—not try—an experiment.

A common error is the use of 'excessively' when 'exceedingly' is intended.

Do not confound 'never' and 'ever'; 'never' is an adverb of *time*, ever may be an adverb of *degree*.

The sun 'sets' and a hen 'sits.'

A 'proposal' and a 'proposition' are different things.

Be careful not to confound 'allude' with 'refer' or 'advert.'

'So' is an adverb of *degree* and 'such' is an adjective of *kind*.

Webster justifies the use of 'than' as a preposition—'Than whom no better man lives.' Webster means well enough.

There is no such word 'as 'jeopardize'; the word is 'jeopard.'

'Lurid' means ghastly pale, gloomy, or dismal.

'Restive' must not be confounded with 'restless.'

'Indices' are algebraic signs; 'indexes' are tables of contents.

Never say 'in this connection' when you mean 'in connection with this.'

That is *complete* which has all its parts; *entire* which has not been divided; *whole* from which nothing has been taken. *Total* refers to the aggregate of the parts.

'With' denotes an instrument and 'by' a cause. 'He killed *with* a sword; he died *by* an arrow.'

Never separate parts of the infinitive; example: 'He promised to speedily comply.'

Do not suffer Mr. Addison or anybody else to bluff you out of the use of that noble word 'that.'

Never use, except in a humorous way, those hackneyed phrases and hoary words of which notorious specimens are: 'Light fantastic toe,' 'mine host,' 'his good lady,' 'beautiful and accomplished,' 'wee sma' hours,' 'groaned with the delicacies of the season,' 'speckled beauties,' 'dull, sickening thud,' and '*recherché*.'—*The Chicago News*.

QUERIZ.

4. I want your opinion on a point of grammar on which I was challenged the other day. In speaking of a certain person's height I said, "He is taller than myself;" am I right? The expression is common enough whether correct or not. W.

["Myself" is wrongly used in this sentence, as may be seen plainly by supplying the verb that is understood after it—"am." See an article in OUR LANGUAGE Vol. 1, No. 1, explaining the only two correct uses of reflexive pronouns. It is true that this error-

is common; Oscar Wilde in a recent letter to *The St. James's Gazette* uses the expression "none of them was older than myself," and I have just looked through a book by Prof. John Tyndall that is full of similar cases—all of which goes to show that there is plenty of work for a journal like this to do.—EDITOR.]

5. A young lady friend of mine, who has been through high-school, uses as an adjective "nice-tasted" in speaking of things of which I would say they are "nice-tasting," such as well tasting meat, etc. She insists on the correctness of her usage. I wonder if there are many other people who are addicted to the same habit. W.

[Ask the young lady whether or not she would say "sweet-smelled flowers," "rough-feeled cloth," and (crucial test) "a nice-looking gentleman." Probably she argues that if "dark colored hair" is hair having a dark color, then meat having a nice taste should be called "nice-tasted." But usage, which is not always logical, is against her.—EDITOR.]

The Work for the Durborow Rezolution.—Under date of 10 March, Mr. N. J. Werner, ov St. Louis rites: "I hav the plesure ov reporting that I hav obtaind up to date 253 signaturz to the Durborow petition. Hav no dout I shal get meni more before I send the list in." Erli in March Mr. Boss had sent 256 names to Washington, and had collected nearli 100 more. A list of 108 signers was collected in Montour, Iowa. A list haz been sent from Kansas containing the namez ov the Governor and several other state ofiserz, the Secretary ov the State Historical Society and otherz. Prof. E. C. Allen, ov New York, haz sent about 60 namez to Washington, and is collecting a second list. Mrs. E. B. Burnz haz sent in 68 namez. Two lists that hav been circulated by Mr. Henry Holt and me among publisherz, editorz, and printerz in New York, hav been forwarded, bearing together 100 namez. Others who send in namez ar requested to report to Mr. Boss or to the editor the number sent so that the total number may be known. At the request of one or another ov the various workerz the Durborow rezolution haz been printed in *The St. Louis Chronicle*, *Latham's Red Book* (Chicago), *The Press* and *The Church Union* (New York). *The Boston Transcript* haz publishd a half-colum editorial giving the Durborow rulez, and citing the resent revizionz ov the speling ov jeografical

and chemical termz az favorabl indicationz for the jeneral reform. The *St. Louis Chronicle* also printed the artiel "For a Beginning" that apeard in the March OUR LANGUAGE, with a portrait ov Mr. Durborow.

Hon. Walter I. Hayes, chairman ov the Comitee on Education, to hwich the rezolution was referd hwen introdused, haz signified hiz wilingnes to aranje for a hearing upon it. It iz to be hoped that some frendz ov the measure wil be abl to atend such a hearing, but at prezent this seemz doubtful.

Postscript:—Just az I go to pres the namez ov more paperz that hav inserted or made use ov the rulez, and particularz about more lists ov namez come to hand, but too late to be aded here.

STANDARD PRONUNCIATION OF ENGLISH.

The ultimate standard of pronunciation for the English language is the usage that prevails among the best educated portion of the people to whom the language is vernacular; or, at least, the usage that will be the most generally approved by them. The pronunciation of this class of persons, all over the world, is for the greater part of the words of the language substantially uniform, and distinguished by only comparatively unimportant shades of difference.

There are, however, sundry diversities of importance which affect the pronunciation of a good many words. And there is no country or locality the custom of which can claim precedence as the everywhere acknowledged standard by which such differences are to be adjudged. The most approved pronunciation in London and the southeast of England is in some points different from what prevails anywhere else. But, notwithstanding the advantage connected with the metropolitan position, the usage of London and the vicinity is not really the standard for the other parts of Great Britain itself, in the sense of securing actual conformity, or even of being acknowledged as the model which should be followed. There are as yet but few of the best educated of the American people who are disposed to take the usage of London as the standard for their own pronunciation. Thus there is in fact no single absolute and universal standard to serve for every case.

Uniformity is to be preferred to diversity. There is no reason why it should be deemed desirable in itself to set up an American as opposed to a London or an English standard.

But any fashion anywhere intrinsically bad should be avoided. As the nasal tone in speaking, which is yet too commonly heard in America, is a thing to be corrected, and would be such even if it had become the fashion in London, so any habit of pronunciation whatever that comes in as a change for the worse should be strenuously resisted, even if it should have gained foothold or have become the ruling mode in the higher circles of London.

The aim of a pronouncing dictionary should of course be to serve as an exponent of the usage which is the ultimate standard of pronunciation. In the case of diverse usages which have extensive prevalence, either within different local boundaries or side by side in the same community, a dictionary that is to serve for universal use should take note of each of them, without, however, being required to notice local peculiarities not approved by the best educated people. This is all that the dictionary has to do, except that it may and should present the reasons, when such exist, which render one mode of pronunciation preferable in itself to another. Its proper office is to indicate and record, not to dictate and prescribe. So far as the dictionary may be known and acknowledged as a faithful interpreter of the actual usage, so far and no further, and in no other sense, can it be appealed to as an authority. It is only in its representative capacity that a dictionary may ever be taken as itself a standard of pronunciation. This would still be true of any work of the kind that might exercise such influence and gain such ascendancy as to become a universally accepted and virtually authoritative standard.—From *Webster's International Dictionary*.

HOW MENI VOWELS AND DIPHTHONGZ ?

Continuing the analisis begun in the last number we come to the group ov soundz represented in Webster's re-speling by *e* variusli markt.

(8) *e* in "eve." This iz a clearli distinctguisht vowel ; it iz calld "long *e*."

(9) *e* in "event." This iz almost the same az (8) but iz shorter. The absens ov acsent on the silablz in hwich (9) ocurz iz the cauz ov the diferens. This sound need not hav a separate simbol in ordinari speling.

(10) *e* in "end." Won ov the most definit vowelz in the langguaje ; "short *e*."

(11) *e* in "fern." Meni good speakerz do *not distinguish this sound from u* in "urn."

On account of the conflicting usaje it iz worth hwile to transcribe the greater part ov the remarks upon this sound in the "International."

"It ocurz before *r* and in accented silablz ; but not hwen the *r* presedez a vowel or another *r* in the folowing silabl ov the same word, az in "vēr-y," "ēr-ror," "hē-ro," etc., except that verbz having this sound ov the leter almost alwayz retain it hwen inflected or sufixt, az in "de-ter-ring," "con-fer-rer," etc. * * * The distinction ov soundz here noted, az between *e* in "fern" and *u* in "urn" iz quite clear ; and the majoriti ov orthoepists at the prezent time ar in favor ov obzerving it. It iz at the same time true that, by the majoriti ov Ingglisch-speaking peopl, it iz not actuali obzervd. But thoze who employ onli won ov theze two soundz do not all uze the same won ; there are some who habituali pronouns both "fern" or "sir," and "urn," "burn," with the distinctiv *e* in "fern" sound ; hwile others giv to "fern" and "sir" the proper *u* in "urn" sound. The unsetld usaje makes such diversiti allowabl. Won desiring to find out hwether there iz for him eni distinction ov the kind may do so by trying hwether he can conseiv ov a sound admisibl in "urn," "turn," "hurl," "turbid," and yet objectionabl in "earn," "term," "girl," "interred."

* * * The "New English Dictionary," by Dr. Murray, employs two diferent simbolz, won for the sound in "fern," "fir," etc., and another for that in "urn," "fur," etc., the vowelz being, he sez, "discriminated by the majoriti ov orthoepists, tho comonli identified by the nativz ov the south ov Inggländ." * * *

The *e* in "fern"—the sound az here intended to be understood—iz quite near to the French *eu*, az in "jeu," "jeune," "leur," "amateur," etc., and to the Jerman *ö*, *œ*, az in "schön," "Goethe," etc., the diferens being that the French and Jerman wordz take more ov a labial modification."

All speling reformerz agree that comon speling need not go into nisetiz ov pronunsiation, but there iz some disagreement az to hwat this term includez. I shoud say that a distinction ov hwich a leading authoriti sez, az above, that "by the majoriti ov Ingglisch-speaking peopl it iz not actuali obzervd," iz sertinli won ov theze nisetiz that may be left to the dictionariz.

(12) *e* in "recent." This iz (11) before *l*, *n*, or *r*, in unaccented silablz. Probably no won dezirez a separate simbol for it.

(13) *i* in "ice." This iz known az "long

i." The "International" sez ov it "The sound iz diphthongal." The initial element iz near to *a* in "ask," and the terminal iz *i* in "ill."

(14) *i* in "idea." This diferz from (13) only in being shortend by absens ov acsent.

(15) *i* in "ill." A clearli distinct sound in Ingglish.

CORRESPONDENS.

CHICAGO, March 17, 1892.

Frederik A. Fernald, Editor:

DEAR SIR,—In the March number ov OUR LANGUAGE you ar in eror in stating the memorial prepared by me and prezented to Conggres on the 25th ult. asks for the adop-ov a national alfabet to be prescribed for use in the Government printing. * * * To the memorial I atacht a copi ov my alfabet and a joint rezolution az folowz, for adoption shud my alfabet be selected:—

Resolved, by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring.) That after the passage of this resolution the foregoing American Alphabet of 42 letters shall be the National Alphabet of the United States; that its use in accordance with the rule for spelling above given, for the spelling of all words in our language, except proper names, is recommended and that such spelling wher-ever used shall be legal and recognized in all courts, as standard American orthography.

If a national alfabet shal be adopted it wil be calld the American Alfabet, no matter hwen it may hav been or shal be invented, or who was or may be its inventor. My alfabet iz known from all other "American" Alfabets by its name—"The American Alfabet, by John M. Mott, Chicago, Ill." I uzed the name "American" for a fonetic alfabet in 1852.

I notis that you question the truth ov my statement that *a*, *e*, and *u*, ar alwayz followd by *r* hwen they hav the soundz that they hav in "air," "verge," and "urge." Can you name a case hwere this rule iz not tru? The *a* ov "air" and the *a* ov the adjectiv "hairy" ar identical in sound, and hwerever this sound iz herd it iz folowd by *r* in the same silabl. The *a* ov "at" iz not diphthongal; and hwen prolonged it becommez the *a* ov "air." * * *

It is my opinion to request Conggres to direct amended spelinz to be uzed az provided in the bil now pending in Conggres [the Durborow rezolution] iz equivalent to asking for action to retard speling-reform, becauz such spelinz ar not fonetic, and their advocasi

by speling-reformerz givz the public a rong impression az to the object ov the speling-reform movement. And to kil the movement outriht, employ Charles A. Story, of Chicago, Ill., to egzibit hiz private enterprize at the Columbian Exposition. * * *

JOHN M. MOTT.

[My mention ov Mr. Mott's memorial in March was based on an item in a Chicago paper. Mr. Mott haz now sent me a copi ov the memorial and I find in it this sentens:—"It further represents that to establish an American System of Orthography all that is necessary for Congress to do is to adopt as the American Alphabet a full phonic alphabet, recommend its use by the people of the United States, and direct the public printer to use the alphabet approved by Congress in all government printing." This completli justifiez the statement hwich I copid.

I fear that I sacrificed clearnes to breviti in my critisizm about *a*, *e*, and *u* before *r* in the same silabl. Hwat I ment was that Mr. Mott reprezents two sounds by each ov theze leterz without giving an adequate clu to distinguish between them. The *r* folowing "in the same silabl" woud be no help to a reader, especiali a lerner, who never woud no on meeting with a stranje word hwether the *r* was to be taken az part ov the same or ov the folowing silabl. In Mr. Mott's speling no won coud tel hwether "hari" had the pronunsiation and meaning ov the verb "harry" or ov the adjectiv "hairy." Moreover, the "International Webster" states (Guide to Pronunciation, Sec. 49), that "The *a* before *r* does not ordinarli take this sound [az in "care"] hwen the *r* presedes a vowel or another *r* in a folowing silabl ov the word; az in p~~är~~-i-ty, p~~är~~-ry, com-p~~är~~-i-son, ch~~är~~-i-ty, etc."—EDITOR.]

Frederik A. Fernald, Esq.
New York.

In your March '92 number, p. 89, col. 2, line 6, "each" should be substituted for "every,"

And on p. 92, col. 2, in "Mr. Chas. A. Story, of Chicago, haz got," etc., the "got" is superfluous. C. E. N.

[So far as I can learn, the choice between "each" and "every" in such cases as the one above cited depends on the writer's meaning. I meant "every."

In the other sentence criticised, dropping "got" woud make it read "Mr. Story has his bill introduced into Congress," etc., the implication that he had exerted himself in the

matter being lost. Transposed thus: "Mr. Story has introduced his bill," etc., it would not be accurate, for only Congressmen can introduce bills into Congress.—EDITOR.]

NEW BOOKS ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

[From *The Publishers' Weekly* (New York) and *The Publishers' Circular* (London) for the past month.]

Annandale, C. A Concise dictionary of the English language. New and enlarged edn., with appendixes. 864 p., Q. London, 5s.

Bosworth, Joseph. Anglo-Saxon dictionary. T. Northcote Toller, editor. Pt. 4, section 1; swar-Swidrian, pp. 817-960, Q. New York, cl., \$2.

Common school helps series. Lebanon, O. GIFFIN, W. M., comp. Suggestive dictation exercises, 59 p., D., pap. net 20 cents.

—Suggestive questions in language after the new methods. 26 p., D., pap., net 15 cents.

SIMPSON, JOSEPHINE, comp. 999 composition subjects. 43 p., D., pap., net 15 cents.

Stories for composition and language exercises. 61 p., D., pap., net 20 cents.

Dyce, A. Shakspeare Glossary. O. London, 7s. 6d.

Earle, J. Philology of the English Tongue. \$2. (Corrected prise.)

Soule, R: Soule's synonymes. New edn., rev. and enl. by G. H. Howison. 488 p., D. Philadelphia, cl. \$2.25., mor. \$2.75.

Wyatt, A. J. Notabilia of Anglo-Saxon grammar. 30 p., O. London, 1s. 6d.

—The *Printers' Register*, of St. Louis, and the *Printers' Album*, of Chicago, hav adopted the Durborow rulez. This wil bring the new spelingz directli under the eyez ov meni thouzandz ov printerz.

—The *National Publisher and Printer*, of Louisville, Ky., publishez several pajez from its Chicago correspondent in the Durborow spelingz.

—An editorial condemning the \$5,000,000 scheme haz been publisht in the *World-Herald*, of Omaha, under the heding "Not the Right Kind of Spelling Reform." The editor objects to an alfabet ov 45 leterz, and sez "Gradual chanjes will give us no shock." The "Spelling Schools" scheme haz been rufli handled also by the New York *Sun*.

—At a jeneral meeting ov the Hamilton Association, ov Hamilton, Ontario, 24th March, a paper on "Spelling Reform" was red by Mr. C. R. McCullough.

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—The *Chicago Tribune*, on the 6th March, publisht an editorial on "Spelling Reform," suggested by Mr. Mott's Memorial.

—*Le Maître Phonétique* reports that a sosieti for the reform ov Norwegian orthografi was formd at Christiana Jan. 6th, with 29 memberz.

—By the aid ov improved mashineri the inventor ov the Klip haz been enabld to reduse the prise (See advertizment). He haz also improved the shape ov the keyz by curving them more.

—An article on "Shall and Will" occupies nine pages of *Education* for March. It is by Prof. W. S. Liscomb, now of Tokyo, and consists largely of illustrative sentences so classified as to show in what constructions either word should be used. A page is given to certain peculiarities of "should" and "would."

—The "Journal of Proceedings and Addresses" ov the National Educational Association at the Toronto meeting was issued about Feb. 1st. It containz the report ov the committee on Speling Reform, red by H. W. Brewster, the supplementary paper by Dr. T. R. Vickroy, and the discussion hwich folowed the reading of theze papers, the hole occupying thirteen octavo pajez. Mr. Brewster's report reviewd the main arguments for the reform and suggested coöperation with other organizationz. Dr. Vickroy also stated briefly the chief benefits ov fonetic speling and propozed the adition ov sertin new leterz to the alfabet. It was stated in the item publisht in OUR LANGUAGE for last Sept. that the report was referd to the Board ov Directorz ov the Association. From the Proceedings I lern that the new Board on the folowing day (16 July) laid the report on the tabl.

Our Language.

DEVOTED TO

PRESERVING, EXTENDING, AND IMPROVING THE ENGLISH SPEECH.

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The prise ov subscription in Ingkland and other cuntriz ov the Postal Union iz 2 s. 1 d., or its equivalent. No charge for postaje.

The present speling ov this paper iz not intended to be final, for it includez formz ov some wordz that need to be further modified. It represents the farthest staj ov agreement that speling reformerz hav reacht, and iz based on the two folowing rulez:—

1. SILENT LETERZ. Drop all silent leterz.

2. TWENTI SOUNDZ. Let the sound most comonli represented by each ov the twenti folowing leterz be always so represented:—*a* (short), *b*, *d*, *e* (short), *f*, *g*, *h*, *i* (short), *j*, *l*, *m*, *n*, *p*, *r*, *s*, *t*, *v*, *w*, *y* (consonant), *z*.

N. B.—Exeptionz may be made hwere the operation ov either rule woud disguise the pronunsiation ov a word. Proper namez ar also exeptionz.

All articlz and leterz on speling-reform ar speld in the style ov the paper exept those that ar inserted az illustrationz ov particular fonetic schemez.

CAUZEZ OV RAPID ADVANSMENT IN STUDIZ.

BY W. T. HARRIS, LL.D.

A cursori review ov the foregoing charts and time-tablz wil convins even the most skeptical, that the advansment made in Prussia in the studiz ov the curriculum iz a good deal faster than in America. Several leading colej profesors and other noted teachers ov this cuntri, who hav made the European scoolz a subject of studi, claim that the average time gaind in Jerman scoolz az compared with American iz about thre yearz. That diferens oht to be accounted for, and it iz eazili done. The causez may be enumerated az being (*a*) the difficult speling ov the Ingglisch langguaje; (*b*) the eforts made in lerning

and aplying the tablz ov our arbitrari mesures and weihts; (*c*) the length ov the scool year; (*d*) the want ov a profesion ov teacherz in this cuntri, and lack of proper teaching. Theze ar not the onli causez; there ar others ov minor importans hwich miht giv rise to interesting discusions, but the scope ov this work forbidz entering into them.

Speling. The orthografi ov the Ingglisch langguaje iz most difficult to lern. It iz veri unruli and arbitrari. The want ov rulez under hwich wordz miht be groupd makes the aquirement ov corect speling a case ov mere mechanical memori. An our per day scarseli sufisez to make the average child master ov the art ov riting corectli without constant referens to the dictionari. Speling, az a daili studi, runz throu the entire cours, and even the graduates ov the hih scool stil need constant drill in orthografi to keep up a sertain standard ov perfection. The amount ov time a child spendz in lerning the orthografi ov the Ingglisch langguaje iz out ov all proportion to that givn to other studiz, tho it is nesesari; and the enerji wasted in aquiring something hwich does not aid the child intelektuali iz deplorabl. If by jeneral consent ov Conggres, pres, and scool the Ingglisch orthografi wer simplified to the degre it haz been done in Jermani it woud be a saving ov an entire year to everi scool child in this cuntri. From Chart I it may be seen how comparativli litl time iz spent in Jerman scoolz in the studi ov orthografi, and that it reachez a degre ov perfection hwich iz never expected or even hoped for in Ingglisch or American scoolz. The time saved in this studi iz in Jermani devoted to histori and literature.—*Report ov the Comisioner ov Education for 1888-89.*

—An interesting tabl iz that on p. 396 ov Dr. Harris's Report az U. S. Commissioner ov Education for 1888–89, giving the "Percentage of the Total Time occupied by each Branch of Instruction in the Public Elementary Schools of Certain Cities." The list includez 29 sitiz and the elementari course in most ov them coverz the first eihrt yearz ov scool life. It apearz that reading and speling together consume far more time than eni other branch, averajing 28 persent. Arithmetic comez second with 18 persent, langguaje lesonz and grammar take 12, riting 9, jeografi 8, and minor studiz make up the rest. Few children get more than eihrt years ov schooling. Think ov more than a quarter ov this time being spent in getting the mere toolz ov nolej!

—A paper on "The present Status of Speling," red by W. F. Bybee, asst. supt. of schools at Greeley, Colo., before the Colorado State Teachers' Association, haz been publisht in *The Normal Register*, ov Salina, Kans. The relation ov speling-reform to the teaching ov speling haz due consideration in the essay.

DELSARTEAN OR DELSARTIAN?

An inquiry having been made as to which is the correct word, "Delsartean," or "Delsartian," the opinion of authorities has been asked, with the following results:

Prof. Wm. D. Whitney, of Yale University, writes:

I should decidedly prefer "Delsartean" simply because it retains the whole name, Delsarte. Either form would answer the purpose.

Prof. Francis A. March, of Lafayette College, writes:

I should use *-ian*. It is the regular Latin for this form of adjective; when *-ean* appears as in "epicurean," the *e* represents a Greek diphthong, is long, and takes the accent; *-ian* is always used in words from proper names ending in a consonant, "Johnsonian," "Darwinian," "Spencerian." But lately it has become common to use *-ean* with words from names ending in *e*. I prefer the other way to preserve the uniformity and regularity of the form, and to preserve the distinction in pronunciation between *ean* and *ian*, "Grecian," "European," "Epicurean," "Shakespearian." The French also favors this distinction, "Européen," "Voltarien," "Delsartien."

Mr. Alfred Ayres says:

I prefer "Delsartian" mainly for the reasons that this form is shorter and that the sound is fuller. "Delsartean" is thin and bodiless.

Mr. Ayres would pronounce it Dêl-sar'-shan, making the last *a* obscure.

Hereafter *Werner's Voice Magazine* will use the form "Delsartian."—*Werner's Voice Magazine*.

Renewal ov Subscriptionz.—Two coursez ar open to the publisher ov a periodical hwen subscriptionz run out:—he may stop sending the periodical and perhaps lose some subscriberz who woud like to keep on taking it but neglect to order it renewd; or, he may send it til the subscriber orderz it stopt or refuzez to reseiv it from the post-ofis. He wil hav a legal riht to collect the subscription prise up to that time, but if he insists on hiz riht he may provoke il-wil in some casez. I shal *not* take the second course in eni case. I shal yuze my jujment in regard to sending OUR LANGUAGE to subscriberz after the term ov subscription haz expired, and eni won iz at liberti to regard numberz so sent az sampl copiz, if he choozes.

Payments ov subscriptions to OUR LANGUAGE wer reseivd during the month ov April from the folowing personz. A plus after the name meanz that more than won copi iz taken.

E. D. Appleton +	L. L. Lockling
J. A. Allen	J. M. McKinlay
O. C. Blackmer +	F. A. March +
Mrs. W. C. Gass	W. B. Owen
H. Holt +	J. Rogers, Vols. 2 & 3.
H. E. Hayes	T. A. Spry +
J. H. Kidder	Miss R. M. Sanborn
A. Knoflach +	F. Starr.

The number ov new subscriptionz reseivd was 32. The whole number now in forse can not be givn this month for about 25 subscriberz hav not yet signified their intentionz in regard to renewal. Several copiz hav been subscribed for resentli to be sent to the libraries or reading-roomz ov scoolz and colejez. This iz a good way to help the paper and to bring speling-reform to the atention ov inteligent yung personz. Our movement needz to be recruited with yung blood. Two subscriptionz ov \$5 each wer reseivd in April. For the first, 12 copiz ov Vol. 2 wil be sent to publisherz and printerz, az requested; for the second I shal send copiz to normal scoolz in Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio. The gain ov the past month promizez wel for the final secure establishment ov the paper.

—Postaje-stamps ar acceptabl in payment ov subscriptionz to OUR LANGUAGE. The publisher woud like, however, to have part or all won-sent stamps.

HOW MENI VOWELZ AND DIPHTHONGZ ?

(Continued.)

(16) *o* in "old." The "regular long" sound ov the leter. This Ingglisch long *o* diferz from the *o* ov French or Jerman in being diphthonggal. Its second element, however, iz veri sligt and iz calld the "vanish." It iz jenerali the sound ov *u* in "full" or in "rude," e. g. "mode," "gold," but before *r* in acsented silablz it iz *u* in "urn," e. g. "four." "As in the similar case of *ā* (ale), the vanish is not universal, yielding more or less to counteracting influences. Yet it often exists when unrecognized and unacknowledged. In the Scottish dialect it is not heard."—*Webster, International*.

(17) *o* in "obey." This sound ocurz onli in unacsented silablz. It diferz from (16) chiefl in lacking the vanish, and hens iz practicali identical with the *o* in most other langguajez. Sins this sound naturali rezults from an attempt to pronouns (16) in an unacsented silabl it iz doubtful if a separate representation iz nesessari.

(18) *o* in "orb." This sound ocurz onli before *r*, but *o* folowd by *r* doez not alwayz hav this sound. The "Imperial Dictionary" of Ogilvie givz the same mark az (19) in all casez, and Stormonth does so in nearli all. This seemz unfortunate, for there ar quite a number ov pairz ov wordz whoze onli diferens iz that between theze two vowelz ; e. g. not, naught; knotty, naughty; don, dawn; God, gaud.

(19) *o* in "odd." The wel known "short *o*."

(20) *u* in "use." This iz the so-calld "long *u*." It iz a diphthong having for its initial element a veri brief *i* in "ill" or *e* in "eve," with *u* in "rude" for its main part. The two ar jenerali conected by consonant *y*, hwich in some situationz, especiali at the begining ov a silabl, almost or quite displacez the initial element. "After *s*, *l*, *j*, *th*, the *y* sound comes in with difficulty, and need not be attempted; as in "assume," "lute," "jury," "thew;" and after *t* or *d* the *iu* may better be given without the *y*; as in "tune," "due," "duty." In all these cases of *y* omitted, the initial vowel element is retained: it would be quite wrong to give an ordinary *oo* in "food" for the entire sound in such words."—*International*. The Ingglisch "long *u*," then, consists ov not less than two soundz, and in some situationz fine analisis discoverz three in it; hens it oht to be represented by not les than two leterz.

(21) *u* in "unite." This ocurz onli in unacsented silablz, and iz (20) lihtnd by absens ov acsent. It need not be distinguisht exept in dictionariz.

(22) *u* in "rude." This was the orijinal sound ov the leter, az in Latin, and iz stil retained in Italian, Spanish, and Jerman. In the time ov Chaucer, according to the *International*, Ingglisch pronunsiation probabli fluctuated between this and the diphthonggal sound ov *u*, and apearz to hav done so down throu the seventeenth and far into the eihteenth sentury. It was onli graduali that the latter sound prevaild.

(23) *u* in "full." This iz similar to (22) but shorter; a wel defined sound.

(24) *u* in "up." Ingglisch "short *u*;" also a well defined vowel.

(25) *u* in "urn." This sound ocurz onli before *r*, but *u* folowd by *r* doez not alwayz hav this sound. It iz a fairli defined vowel among good speakerz, altho it variz somewhat.

(26) *ou* in "out." According to the *International* this iz a diphthong, begining with *a* in "ask" (6) and ending with (23). It is like 13 in having neither part predominant.

(27) *oi* in "oil." The first part ov this diphthong iz (18), and the clozing part iz *i* in "ill" (15).

The list of vowel soundz distinguisht in the respeling ov the *International* iz now complete. Next month I shal try to make up a list ov those that shoud be distinguisht in comon speling: my prezent impresion iz that the list oht to contain the folowing fourteen—Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 15, 16, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, and the diphthongz. The opinionz on this matter that hav been reseivd from correspondents wil also be printed next month.

Consummating a Marriage.—I did think that this old blunder had been preached to death, but here it crops out again in the New York *Examiner*:—"The mere circumstance of a man and a woman presenting themselves at a minister's house and asking to be united in wedlock, seems to be regarded by many ministers as a sufficient warrant for consummating offhand the most solemn and portentous compact into which two human beings can enter." Suffice it to say here that it is not the officiating minister who "consummates" a marriage. The phrase will be avoided by those who do not wish to give their conversation a decidedly physiological and legal cast.

Spelling, No. 5.—Another number of the magazine of the S. R. A. has been issued, dated April, 1892, and it is full of excellent matter. The chief articles are: "Report of the Pennsylvania Commission on Amended Orthography" (made 8 Apr., 1889), "Spelling Reform before Congress" (up to the present session), "Government Regulation of Geographic Names," "Gradual Steps of Reform," "How to help the Spelling Reform," "Spelling-book Lore," "Sixteenth Annual Meeting," (1891), and "The Press." The number is spelt throughout according to the "24 Rules." *Spelling* is a quarterly, price \$1 a year, and is published by the Library Bureau, 146 Franklin St., Boston, Mass.

Final Report on Chemical Terms.—The committee of the A. A. A. S., whose work was referred to last June, made its final report at the annual meeting in 1891, and this has just been printed. All the proposed changes given in my former article have been adopted except that "albumen" is accented on the first syllable, and "gram" is spelt "gramme." The action of the chemists is a valuable precedent for the general reform in spelling. Silent final *e* after a short vowel has been dropped in two important classes of words, namely, "bromide," etc., and "glycerin," etc.; *ph* has been changed to *f* in "sulfur" and all its derivatives, and a most encouraging disregard of the "custom" and "etimolijji" fetishes has been shown throughout.

Lecture by Prof. Knoflach.—At the Friends' Seminary in New York, 14th April, Prof. A. Knoflach delivered his entertaining lecture on "A Language for the World," before the Rutherford Literary Society. He pointed out briefly the unsuitableness of French and German for universal use, and then stated there was only one objection to English for this purpose—its spelling—and this, though a great won, might be removed readily. The inconsistencies of English spelling were then shown up by a variety of means, including the use of charts, and in a manner which provoked laughter frequently. With a self-denial that should be cultivated among spelling-reformers, Prof. Knoflach refrained from any allusion to his particular scheme of phonetic spelling.

That Pronoun of Common Gender.—It being admitted that "thon" or "dhwun" is derived from "one" or "wun" it is but just to see if the original word "one" will not answer all the purposes "thon" is designed

for, before we put ourselves to trouble that may prove useless. It seems to me that we can find out the value of this word by observing the use its advocates make of it. For a specimen let us first take that on p. 146, *J. A. O.* for Oct.,—"The teacher teaches by uttering thon's experiences." Compare this with such old-fashioned English as,—One teaches by relating one's experiences. Almost as good as the new style, isn't it? * * *

Only a slight variation in the present use of "one" and every office is filled that the "thonites" labor to have thons "thon" elected and sworn into. It is usually easier to enlarge the use of a word than to introduce an entirely new one.—*W. C. Albro in The Journal of Orthoepi and Orthografi for April.*

Pedantic Etymology.—Another source of mistake and confusion is the little learning that mistakes old or provincial English words for forms of others yet in our book-speech, holding that the unlearned people of the provinces are wrong, when they are quite right. The word *gar* is a spear or javelin, and a man knowing this would understand at the sight of a *garfish* why it is so called; but I have in a folio a print of a garfish which is called "guardfish or garfish"; "guardfish" being a correction of fishermen's bad English!—*Introduction of Tiw by Wm. Barnes.*

—The derivation of "bronze" which connects it with the city of Brundisium has lately received further confirmation. M. Berthelot, the French chemist, has found a Latin text in which this alloy is specified as "Composition of Brindisi". The manuscript dates back to the time of Charlemagne, and was reproduced by Maratori in his "Antiquitates Italiæ".

Petition from New York.—*House of Representatives*, Saturday, April 23. The following petitions and papers were laid on the Clerk's desk and referred as follows:

* * * * *

By Mr. FITCH: Petition of citizens of New York city, praying for the adoption of the resolution of Hon. A. C. DURBOROW relative to amended spelling—to the committee on Education.—*Congressional record*, April 24.

OUR MISLEADING SPELLING.—"Mamma," whispered Nannie, as she turned over the leaves of her prayer-book in church. "I've found the spasms (Psalms) but I can't find the plaster (Psalter)." —*Harper's Bazar*, 1891.

The Alfabet ov Least Rezistans.—The alfabet ov the Spelling Reform Association iz frequentli calld by the above name becaus the printing in it so nearli rezemblz the comon printing. It iz not jenerali known, however; that the fraze orijinated with Prof. Geo. D. Broomell, formerli professor ov mathematics in the Chicago High School. The facts ar theze. In the latter part ov the year 1877 I printed and distributed a four-paje sirkular in the alfabet ov the S. R. A. Theze pajez wer afterwards embodid in the Bulletins ov the Association. In making up the pajez I was short ov matter and askt Prof. Broomell to furnish it. He did so. A part of hwat he rote iz az folowz:—

"Careful attention iz invited to theze spesi-menz ov fonetic printing. It iz believd that so close a rezemblans to the ordineri printed paje can not be obtaind by eni other fonetic alfabet that haz ever been devised. It is therefore les offensiv to the reader than eni other, and may be calld the alfabet of least rezistans."

I hav prezervd the orijinal copi in the handriting ov Prof. Broomell.

O. C. BLACKMER.

Chicago, 15 March 1892.

Electrotyped Rulez.—Electrotypes ov the folowing paragraf, in several widths ov colum, ar furnisht by H. R. Boss, 232 Irving Av., Chicago, for 30 sents each, hwich bareli covers the cost of making and postage. They ar valuabl to insert in local paperz and to print slips from for enclosure in leterz.

English spelling is the worst in the world. Millions of dollars are wasted each year in the writing and printing of useless letters. The education of our children is retarded and the progress of our people is hampered by our cumbrous, illogical, misleading orthography. The scholarship of the world is almost a unit in demanding a change. The American Philological Association has recommended the following RULES FOR NEW SPELLINGS, for IMMEDIATE USE:

1. Drop *ue* at the end of words like dialogue, catalogue, etc., where the preceding vowel is short. Thus spell demagog, epilog, synagog, etc.
2. Drop final *e* in such words as definite, infinite, favorite, etc., where the preceding vowel is short. Thus spell opposit, preterit, hypocrit, requisit, etc.
3. Drop final *te* in words like quartette, coquette, cigarette, etc. Thus spell cigaret, roset, epaulet, vedet, gazet, etc.
4. Drop final *me* in words like programme. Thus spell ortflam, gram, etc.
5. Change *ph* to *f* in words like phantom, telegraph, phase. Thus spell alfabet, paragraf, filosofy, fonetic, fotograf, etc.
6. Substitute *z* for the diphthongs *ae* and *oe* when they have the sound of that letter. Thus spell eolian, esthetic, diarrhoea, subpoena, esofagus, atheneum, etc.

If you would array yourself on the side of progress, adopt the foregoing in all that you write, and especially in all that you print.

—Mr. L. Lyon, drugist and bookseler, ov Coneaut, O., publisht in November the "Lyon Diirectori," a list ov the public bildingz and institutionz ov hiz town, printed in fonetic speling on a sheet of cardboard. At the same time he issued the "Lyon List ov Boarding-Houses," also spelt foneticali, except the proper namez.

EDITOR'S CHAT ABOUT WORDS.

A standard dictionary tells us what forms and meanings of words were in good usage at the time when it was printed, and what are the derivations of those words. It can give us no help, obviously, in deciding upon the claims of words that have applied for admission to good society since its last edition appeared, and it can not tell us whether we should favor or resist each new tendency in the use of words that comes up from time to time. The only kind of a publication that can give such help is a periodical, and it is one of the intended functions of OUR LANGUAGE to supplement the dictionaries in this way.

A tendency which is now over-stepping reasonable bounds is that of using nouns for adjectives, thus, persons speak of a sum "in Canada money" where they should say "Canadian," or a "navy officer" for which "naval officer" is better English. In some cases where no corresponding adjective exists it is better to coin one after the analogies of the language than to use the noun as above: thus say "Oklahoman settlements" not "Oklahoma settlements." In other cases, where it is not easy to construct an adjective, the use of the noun must be accepted, as in "army officer," "treaty ports," etc. This craze for compounding nouns probably comes from the newspapers, which require that the greatest possible amount of news shall be got into a given space, no matter how much the language is folded over and jammed down in accomplishing it. In talking of things that they have read about in the newspapers, most persons unconsciously drop into the newspaper phrase, and when they write they use the same expressions that they have become accustomed to use in speaking. Another way to avoid excessive compounding of nouns besides the use of the adjective is the use of a phrase with "of" or some other preposition. Picking up a New York newspaper for examples I find "six-storied store," which would better be "store of six stories;" another that I have seen is "meteor-swarms," for which "swarms of meteors" would be better; and instead of "Oklahoma settlements" one might say "settlements in Oklahoma."

The paper just now in my hand affords cases of another sort of compounding that should be resisted. This does not affect the arrangement of the words but consists merely in the unnecessary insertion of a hyphen between adverb and adjective (or participle) in such phrases as "well-known persons"

"meagerly-furnished apartment," and "poorly-equipped places." There is no more need of joining by a hyphen an adverb to the word which it modifies than there is of joining an adjective to the noun which it modifies. We do not write "a black-horse," nor "a large-box," and so we should not write "well-known," "poorly-equipped," "very-careful," nor "fairly-complete." *If, however,* the adverb may be sometimes an adjective the use of a hyphen is allowable to prevent ambiguity, as in "a long-handled brush," or "a high-topped carriage."

The distinction between "vocation," which is one's chief occupation, and "avocation," which is some minor interest, like amateur work, politics, or boating, is a valuable one and should not be allowed to slip away. Unfortunately there are precedents for using "avocation" in the sense of "vocation," hence it is necessary to take a decided stand in order to preserve the distinctive meaning of the former word.

On a leaf of my desk-calendar last month was this sentence: "When a doctor takes his own medicines, whether preventative or curative, it certainly proves his faith in them." The doctor who wrote this should be informed that "preventative" is like a three-legged child—a monstrosity. It has a syllable too many, the proper word being "preventive."

Another doctor in a recent bright book on "The Chinese" mangles the English language most dreadfully. He writes, "I had a suspicion he was invoking Buddha to help either he or I"—a misuse of pronouns which I have called attention to before.

Speaking of books suggests publishers, who, like doctors, write a good deal, and in many cases without sufficient preparation. One of them announces: "The price of the charts is 75 cents and may be obtained from G. W. Hastings." Let us all call on Mr. Hastings for the 75 cents he offers to the public.

Inventors of new articles of commerce ought to get expert aid in constructing names for their wares. In an English advertisement I once saw the name "Waterphone," which violates one of the chief principles of word-formation in drawing its two parts from different languages. It ought to be either all English, for instance, "Water-sounder" or "Water-ear," or else all Greek, "Hydrophone." Expert aid, also, might have prevented the occasion for the following French joke that appeared in *La Revue Scientifique*: "An American has invented a new musical instrument which apparently surpasses in sweetness

all instruments before known. Its name alone gives an idea of the melodious sounds that may be drawn from it. It is called the 'Tubatriphascophone.'"

It is a curious psychological phenomenon that persons sometimes misread words for years, generally by transposing two letters or syllables, before the mistake is corrected. "Strategic" was read as "strajetic" by me for a long period, and in my early days of studying algebra "binomial" was for a time "binominal." A relative has told me that "chagrin" was always "charjin" to him until he became a young man and had entered the army of the Civil War. Another gentleman gives me "larnyx" for "larynx" as an error of his experience.

Interlarding with French.—I regret that my fellow-laborers in the field of society news-gathering should have run out of French phrases. One dear Sunday paper has been a perfect mine of information for me in this particular. Two or three weeks ago, all descriptions of the doings of the local 400 were chronicled in that sheet with the most delightful garniture of French. Stuffy little dining-rooms, looking out upon blind alleys, were dignified by being dubbed *salle a mangers*; 10x12 reception rooms were called *salons*, and everything was *recherche, chic* and *distingue*. Last Sunday's society page was robbed of much of that interest which it has hitherto possessed for me. Alas! the entire page was devoid of a single French word. I know of no way to account for this save on the ground of a decline in social affairs. Not a *dejeuner* appears to have been given, just coarse, common dinners, spread in vulgar dining-rooms. The word "parlor" was actually introduced, after a long rest, and really, it must be confessed, it looked quite new and distinguished. —*Once a Week (St. Louis).*

—There will be no "sulphurous" fumez hereafter, at least in American chemical laboratoriz; the chemists have adopted the spelling "sulfurous."

—Like the Irishman who was asked whether "nether" or "nither" was right and sed it was "nather," we can now say it is not "kwīnīn," nor "kwīnīn," nor kwīnēn for the chemists have adopted "kwī 'nīn," and spell it "quinin."

—The *Boston Evening News* prints the headline "SHORTER HOURS AND MORE PAY." Anything under 60 minutes is not an hour, so *The News* probably means—Less Hours and More Pay.

CORRESPONDENTS.

E. A. P.—I shal be glad to print your articl if you wil furnish a suficient quantiti ov the special type that it requirez, i. e. those for the four soundz *th*, *dh*, *but* and *burn*. Ov course it iz eazi to invert an *e*, but for inverted *e*'s with diacritics matrixez woud hav to be cut and type cast. I yuze 10-point and sometimes 8-point type.

CRESTVIEW, FLA., 25 Apr., 1892.

Frederik A. Fernald:

DEAR SIR,—In the April number ov OUR LANGUAGE iz a request that "otherz who send in namez * * * woud report to Mr. Boss or to the editor." I hav sent in namez in favor ov John M. Mott's petition, none for the Durborow petition. I had the two petitions at the same time: I showd both ov them and explaind their meaning. About eih t out ov everi ten personz talkt with signd the Mott petition—none the "two bites at a cheri" petition. I think I could go throu Walton Co., Fla., (had I time) with about the same average result.

JAMES ROGERS.

Regular Worldo English.—Under this heading Elias Molee, of Bristol, S. D., promulgates a radical revision of English, for which the following are the first five rules:—

RULE 1. All plural nouns add "s" or "es," whichever is easiest to pronounce, as, 2 Romans, 2 womans (women), 2 boxes, 2 oxes (oxen), 2 wilds, 2 childs (children).

RULE 2. The possessive case add "o" instead of "s" to the singular and "os" to the plural, as "mano hands" (man's hand) "manos hands" (men's hands). When the noun end in "o" originally, "n" is inserten, as, "snowno whiteness (snow's whiteness).

RULE 3. The past tense and the past participle add "en" in place of "ed" to all verbs except the seven auxiliary verbs *be*, *have*, *do*, *can*, *will*, *shall*, and *may*, which remain as before, to prevent monotony, thus, I liven (I lived), I have liven (I have lived), she has singen, she is gladnen (gladened).

RULE 4. "S" after third person singular of verbs is eliminaten, thus, he love (loves), she sing, we sing.

RULE 5. All derivative negative adjectives prefix the Saxon "un" in place of in, im, ir, il, ig, and dis, thus, ungodly, uncorrect, unproper, unregular, unlegal, unnooble, and unagreeable.

The objects of these changes are to secure regularity and euphony. Mr. Molce believes in phonetic spelling but says that he omits it for the present. Believing that phonetic

spelling is the most pressing need of the English language, the editor thinks that consideration of Mr. Molee's changes had better be "omitted for the present."

LITERARI NOTES.

—An enterprizing litl short-hand paper in the Dano-Norwegian langguaje, called the *Stenografblad*, iz publisht by Andreas Heisholt, at Skien, Norway. Each number containz several pajez of engraved shorthand and a pajez ov Ingglish engraved in fonetic script. The Ingglish iz ritn in conversational style—wordz being run together and some sounds being slurd or elided az in comon speech.

—The first number of *Newspaperdom*, a monthly journal for the makers of newspapers, was issued in March by C. S. Patteson, at the World Building, in New York. It contains a department for "Inaccuracies in Word or Phrase."

—The official report ov the proseedings at the Chicago Typothetæ's banquet in honor of Franklin's birthday wil be printed in Durborow spelings. This wil giv a goodli number ov "filosofers" and "filosofies."

—A column articl taking the Durborow rulez for a text was contributed to *The Church Union* for April by Mrs. E. B. Burnz. It haz alredi broht the riter a good meni requests for reform tractz.

A Historical.—J. A. H. Murray—"Dictionary Murray"—says that as several correspondents have asked him if he really used the words "an historical" in a communication to *Notes and Queries*, he wishes to say that he did not. "I wrote, as I always do, 'a historical,' which I consider to be better modern English, though many scholars prefer to retain the archaic 'an historical', just as some preachers retain the obsolete 'an holy' and 'an house,' which they find in the Bible of 1611."—*New York Tribune*.

AN INCOMPETENT EDUCATOR.

QUESTIONS REFERRED TO THE EDITOR.

Two young men were arguing over the fact, one said that transpiring was right; the other said perspiring. Now which is correct to use in case a person is 'sweating'?

Coopersburg, Pa.

C. J. KLEIN.

Both are right, though the word *perspiring* is generally used. *Transpiring* is more literal.—*National Educator*.

[This is pretty poor teaching. It is only the vaporous insensible perspiration to which the verb transpire may be applied properly.]

The comment that it is "more literal" for sweating is absurd, since both words come from the Latin *spirare*, to breathe.—EDITOR.]

Tests of Enunciation.—To see how good a command one has over his vocal organs, read the following sentences rapidly

Gaze on the gay gray brigade.

The sea ceaseth and it sufficeth us.

Say, should such a shapely sash shabby stitches show?

Strange strategic statistics.

Give Grimes Jim's gilt gig whip.

Sarah in a shawl shoveled soft snow softly.

She sells seashells.

Smith's spirit flask split Philip's sixth sister's fifth squirrel skull.

Celestial Grammar.—The *Christian Register* of Boston contains a poem beginning:

If I should die to-morrow, *would* I feel
This need of human love?

* * * *

If I should die to-morrow, *would* I see
That all the tears I wept.

etc. It may be hoped that whenever this man dies he will learn the difference between *would* and *should*.—*Letter in the Evening Post* (New York).

NEW BOOKS ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

[From *The Publishers' Weekly* (New York) and *The Publishers' Circular* (London) for the past month.]

Cordingley, W. G. Complete Commercial Guide and Phrase-Book. 160 p., 8 vo. London, 2s.

Eno, J. N. Compendium of English Grammar. 32 p., 16mo. Boston, 35cts.

Handbook Illustrated Dictionary of the English Language. New enl. edn. 448 p., D. New York, 75cts.

Nisbet C. and Don Lemon. Everybody's Writing-Desk Book. New edn., rev. by Jas. Baldwin. 315 p., T. New York, \$1.

Niu Testament. Fonetik edishun. 8vo. London, 3s.

Payne, F. M. Excelsior Webster Pocket Speller and Definer. 317 p., Tt. New York, 50cts.

Pearson, K. The Grammar of Science. Contemporary Science Series. 506 p., D. London and New York, \$1.25.

Skeat, W. W. A primer of English Etymology. 112 p., 12mo. London, 1s. 6d.

Sweet, H. A New English Grammar. Part 1. Introduction, Phonology, and Accidence. 520 p., 5vo. London, 10s. 6d.

Shal we meet at Chicago?—A subscriber who atended the Philadelphia meeting haz askt the editor to propoze a meeting ov spel-ing-reformerz at Chicago in 1893. The idea iz atractiv, but before we all say "Yes, let us hav a meeting, and let somebodi besidez me get it up," let us first think out the anserz to a few questionz. 1. Hwat work hav we that can be done better at a meeting than in eni other way? 2. Wil eni such work be redi to act upon in 1893? 3. Can we hav a meeting that wil be a credit to the cauz? 4. Who shal make the aranjements? 5. Who wil meet the neseari expensez? 6. Shoud the meeting be International? Dealing az it doez with ritn langguaje most ov the work for spel-ing-reform must be done throu the medium ov print, stil meetingz hav their funhction in this az in other popular movements. Meni sosietiz wil chooze Chicago az the plase for their anual meeting in 1893, and their coud be no objection to the S. R. A. doing the same. This meeting miht be taken az the basis ov az larje a convention az we may be abl to make. I dout the wisdom ov formali inviting reprezentativz ov the spel-ing-reform sentiment in England to take part in the meeting. I think the next invitation to an international conferens shoud come from the other side. Canadian reformers, however, ar, ov cours, "ov us."

—In an articl on Finland, in *Macmillan's Magazine* for March, the late Prof. E. A. Freeman rote "clooked" insted ov "cloaked," "Tzar" insted ov "Czar," and "Fin" insted ov "Finn."

KOMIKAL! KYURIUS! KWAINT! INGLISH AS SHE IZ SPELT.

Perpetrated by Fritz Federheld.

A colection ov versez, anecdotes, leterz, and extracts ilustrating the absurd inconsistensiz ov orthodox spel-ing, the ludicrus blunderz ov iliterate spelerz, and the curiositiz ov ancient and humorus spel-ing.

Spel-ing reformerz wil find it a magazine ov amunition for their attacks on our monstus orthografi.

The book iz a thoroli amuzing won, and the reader who can not laf over it woud need to be tickled with a club.

Prise,

(To subscriberz to OUR LANGUAGE)
20 sents.

For sale by
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DEVOTED TO

PRESERVING, EXTENDING, AND IMPROVING THE ENGLISH SPEECH.

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The prize ov subscription in Inggländ and other cuntriz ov the Postal Union iz 2 s. 1 d., or its equivalent. No charge for postaje.

The present speling ov this paper iz not intended to be final, for it includez formz ov some wordz that need to be further modified. It represents the farthest staj ov agreement that speling reformerz hav reacht, and iz based on the two folowing rulez:—

1. SILENT LETERZ. Drop all silent leterz.

2. TWENTI SOUNDZ. Let the sound most comonli represented by each ov the twenti folowing leterz be always so represented:—*a* (short), *b*, *d*, *e* (short), *f*, *g*, *h*, *i* (short), *j*, *l*, *m*, *n*, *p*, *r*, *s*, *t*, *v*, *w*, *y* (consonant), *z*.

N. B.—Exeptionz may be made hwere the operation ov either rule woud disguise the pronunsiation ov a word. Proper namez ar also exeptionz.

All artielz and leterz on speling-reform ar speld in the style ov the paper exept those that ar inserted as illustrationz ov particular fonetic schemez.

THE RE-SPELING METHOD OF TEACHING READING.

The esens ov this method consists in yuzing a primer in hwich all the wordz hav been *re-speld*, az they ar in dictionariz to show the pronunsiation. This givz a book holi in fonetic speling, for the comon speling iz not yuzed in the primer exept in words hwere it iz the same as the fonetic, such as, “man,” “spin,” “intended.” The yuse ov such a primer makes a great diferens between this and hwat iz calld the “fonic” or “fonetic” method, and to avoid confusion with the latter it shoud never be calld by the same name. In the re-speling method, leterz ar alwayz calld by their soundz, never by their namez. All books after the primer ar the

regular books in ordinari speling, so that the re-speld primer servz mereli as a stepping-stone to the ordinari print.

Lerning to read by the yuse ov a re-speld primer and then chanjing to the comon books iz much quicker than eni method that beginz with the ordinari speling. This haz been proved over and over again, in public scoolz in Inggländ and the United States, by parents teaching their own children, in the teaching ov iliterates and foreinerz, and in missionari work among the Africanz and the American Indianz. Suficient evidens ov this haz been givn in the pajez ov OUR LANGUAGE so that none need be sited here. More important even than the great saving ov time iz the stimulus to the child’s reazoning powerz hwich the studi ov a lojical sistem ov representing speech yieldz, in plase ov the mental bliht and the habit ov dependens on authoriti hwich comez from begining hiz education with the mas ov contradictionz containd in Ingglisch speling.

Speling reformerz can not do better work for their own cauz and for humaniti than to spred the respeling method ov teaching reading. Primerz hav been provided alredi—Pitman’s, Longley’s, March’ez, Burnz’ez, Vickroy’s, and Knoflach’s—it matterz litl hwich iz one chozen, for good work can be done with eni ov them. Hwat ar not so eazili found ar teachers who reali comprehend and appreciate the method. It iz so diferent from their hole training and habits ov thoht that they can rareli take it up without sistematic instruction, and this iz seldom availabl. If it had been explaind to them in the normal scoolz that they atended they woud be abl to make yuse ov it hwenver an oportuniti prezented itself. The

editor of OUR LANGUAGE proposez to begin a campaign in this field at wonce, and invites the co-operation of all reformers who are connected with or interested in educational work.

Several members of the S. R. A. are instructors in normal schools, hence their efforts and counsel will be especially valuable, in regard to getting a standing for the method in the training of teachers. For the benefit of teachers who did not become acquainted with it in the normal school and parents who would like to teach their children at home, I want to publish in this paper a series of model lessons prepared by some competent educator. Correspondents are invited from all who can take any part in the proposed work.

MISFORTUNES IN METAPHOR.

BY HENRY W. LUCY.

Metaphor is perhaps at once the most seductive and the most misleading form of speech. To the average orator it has the same attraction that edged tools have for children, and its use is as frequently followed by lamentable results. It is the earliest language of mankind, and it is one which the average modern man least successfully manages. When at the earliest epoch of our development, metaphor was the ordinary form of speech this maladroitness was not observable. In the Bible, for example, where metaphor is constantly employed, it invariably adorns speech, and often lifts it to the loftiest heights possible for prose. It is a lost art and not a new accomplishment we grapple with in these degenerate days when we venture on metaphor.

The class of people who most frequently use it claim kinship to past masters in the art, inasmuch as they are lacking in what we call education. The negro, and above all the negro preacher, wallows in metaphor, invariably more or less mixed. It was one of these who, confessing his faults before his congregation, cried aloud: "Brethren, the muddy pool of politics was the rock on which I split." It was another who fervently exclaimed: "We thank thee for this spark of grace; water it, good Lord." Another prayed for "grace that we might gird up the loins of our minds, so that we shall receive the latter rain." Mixed metaphors grow luxuriantly on the fertile soil of the United States. Only the other day I read an article from the eloquent pen of Colonel John Forney, in which, speaking *eulogistically* of the mother of De Quincy Adams [?], he said, "She was a public woman

all her life. Hence the ~~feet~~ remarkably mixed character of her posterity." This unhappy phrase is rather a muddling of expression than a mixing of metaphor.

Ireland has so long been looked upon as the home of mixed metaphor, that a good deal of the fun has been rubbed out by the suspicion that specimens are made to order. Of this class is doubtless the peroration attributed to an Irish barrister. "Gentlemen of the Jury," he is reported to have said, "it will be for you to say whether this defendant should be allowed to come into Court with unblushing footstep, with the cloak of hypocrisy in his mouth, and draw three bullocks out of my client's pocket with impunity."

In Germany, metaphors are evolved from the inner conscience with great success. There are one or two famous in the literary history of the country. Everyone has heard of the speech of Justice-Minister Hye, who, addressing the Vienna students in the troublous time of 1848, declared, "the chariot of the Revolution is rolling along, and gnashing its teeth as it rolls." Less known is the address by the mayor of a Rhineland corporation, spoken to the emperor William shortly after he was crowned at Versailles. "No Austria, no Prussia!" said the inspired mayor; "one only Germany!" Such were the words the mouth of your Imperial Majesty has always had in its eye." Essentially German is a sentence from a learned criticism on a book of lyrics which carries the signature of Professor Johannes Sheer. "Out of the dark regions of philosophical problems," says the Professor, "the poet suddenly lets swarms of songs dive up carrying far-flashing pearls of thought in their beaks." A song with a pearl in its beak would be a great attraction in the program of a popular concert.

We need not go far abroad in search of mixed metaphors. This is a supremacy in which the House of Commons holds its own, as it claims to do in every other contest of life. It was in an access of passionate emotion that during a debate on the foreign policy of Lord Beaconsfield's Government, Mr. Cotton solemnly declared that "at one stage of the negotiations a great European struggle was so imminent that it only required a spark to let slip the dogs of war." It was on the same night, and during the same debate, that Mr. Foster observed: "I will, Mr. Speaker, sit down by saying," &c. Mr. Foster has always been an adroit politician: but what new sort of maneuver this is that enables a man to "sit down by saying" remains unexplained.

Of the same class of mixed idea was Sir Drummond Wolff's declaration during the debate on Mr. Bradlaugh's admission, that 'if the member for Northampton were to be admitted, he would vote with a millstone round his neck'—an awkward appanage to a man in walking through the lobby, more especially on nights when the Obstructionists resort to the practice of repeatedly challenging divisions. On the fifth night of the debate on the Address in the current session, Sir Patrick O'Brien in a luminous speech declared that the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act would merely leave the rotting sword festering in the wound.

Politics, like all engagements that heat the blood, lead largely to indulgence in metaphor. During the General Election Sir John Hardy, addressing the East Staffordshire electors, assured them that, if they sent him to Parliament, 'it would be a pledge against the dismemberment of the Empire.' This was not nearly so good as the elaborate and deliberate metaphor with which Mr. Thwaites, one of the Conservative Candidates for Blackburn, sought to recommend himself to the electors. He was speaking of the condition of the national finances, at that time in the hands of Sir Stafford Northcote. 'Unfortunately,' he said, 'the Government is on the wrong side of the book; but however, you have had a prudent Chancellor of the Exchequer, and he has done his best. He has done what I would like you, my friends, to do. When you have laid an egg, put it by for a rainy day.' Why electors of Blackburn should be expected to lay eggs is a question that disappears before the greater importance of the query, why they should save them for a rainy day.—*Belgravia*.

HOW MENI VOWELZ AND DIPHTHONGZ ?

(Continued.)

The 27 soundz described in preseding articlz on this question may be redused at wonse to the folowing 21 :—(1) *a* in "ale," (3) *a* in "care," (4) *a* in "am," (5) *a* in "arm," (6) *a* in "ask," (8) *e* in "eve," (10) *e* in "end," (11) *e* in "fern," (13) *i* in "ice," (15) *i* in "ill," (16) *o* in "old," (17) *o* in "obey," (18) *o* in "orb," (19) *o* in "odd," (20) *u* in "use," (22) *u* in "rude," (23) *u* in "full," (24) *u* in "up," (25) *u* in "urn," (26) *ou* in "out," (27) *oi* in "oil." No won propozez to distinguish eni ov the other six in comon speling, but a separate representation iz claimd for each ov the above 21 by some speling-reformerz. The nesesity for 15 ov

theze in a fonetic alfabet iz agreed upon by all ov us, the six consarning hwich we disagree being Nos. 3, 6, 11, 17, 18, and 25. We had better "hav it out" on theze six soundz at wonse and find hwich side haz the greater weicht ov argument in each case. The discussion in OUR LANGUAGE last year showed that the time haz gone by in hwich eni scheme that d d not yuze *k* for the *k*-sound coud hope to win jeneral acseptans. It is now propozed to come at similar desisionz in regard to the vowelz.

The need ov a separate simbol for (3) haz been shown, I think, in the remarks on this sound and my comments on Mr. Mott's alfabet. If the same simbol wer yuzed for both (3) and (4), children woud hav no more clu than they hav now to the pronunsiation ov such words az "baring, fairy, carriage, harry, hairy, tarry, tearing, sparrow," etc. Ar we all convinst ov this now ?

The sound numberd (6) iz a lihtend form ov (5), and there ar good reaznz for representing both by the same leter. In polisilablz (6) iz simpli the sound that rezults from the attempt to pronouns (5) in an unacsented silabl. This diferens can be wel seen in the two *a*'s ov "Montana" and "Nevada." Now in thre casez (Nos. 2, 9 and 14) it iz agreed that an unacsented vowel shoud be reprezented by the same leter az the coresponding acsented vowel, and the same desision seemz to be proper here. In monosilablz meni good speakerz yuze (5) hwere otherz yuze (6). Becauz ov this diferens in pronunsiation it seemz better to yuze the same simbol for both soundz in monosilablz also, leaving the distinction between the two pronunsiationz ov "ask," etc., to be pointed out by the dictionariz. We shoud not insist that our neihbor shal pronouns our way, if he wil refrain from insisting that we pronouns hiz way. This iz a sacrifice ov personal preferens on the part ov the riter, for he was broht up in the cult that recognizez (6).

If the above prinsipl consarning divided usaje in pronunsiation iz accepted it wil deside the case ov (11), for onli a part ov the good speakerz ov Ingglisch recognize the egzistens ov this sound.

Unacsented long *o* (17) ocurz so seldom that won often findz dificulti in thingking ov egzamplz ov it. The same rule shoud be aplyed to it that haz been aplyed to other vowelz in unacsented silablz.

Az to (18) it was pointed out last month that a separate simbol iz needed for it in

order to distinguish between serten pairz ov wordz.

There iz not the same reazn for providing a separate simbol for (25), but if it wer represented in the same way az (24) a rong pronunsiation wold be suggested to the lerner in meni casez.

Discarding Nos. 6, 11, and 17 there remain 18 vowelz and diphthongz hwich shoud be represented in ordinari speling. Ar the readerz ov OUR LANGUAGE agreed upon this number?

In an articl reseivd from Joseph A. Stuart, "An Ex-kompozitor's View," 15 ar recognized. This list diferz from my 18 by including No. 11, and omitting Nos. 18 and 25. Nos. 3 and 27 ar not mentiond, probabli becauz they ar both treated az diphthongz. L. Lyon rites "I can get along with the above vowelz and glidez," under a leter-hed containing a list ov 16. He doez not make separate provision for Nos. 3 and 25. An articl from an Ingglisch reformer, Mr. E. A. Phipson, hwich I reseivd resentli, containz a list ov 19, differing from my 18 onli by including No. 6. The alfabet ov the S. R. A. includez 20, taking in Nos. 6 and 17. Next month I wil giv the numberz recognized in varius printed schemez in my colection, and meanwhile shal be glad to hear from corespondents on this subject.

Corection.—On paje 11 ov the May number the statement that the sound of *o*, az in "orb," ocurz onli before *r* iz a mistake. This sound, however, iz not represented by *o* in eni other situation.

Voice.—I do not like that ambitious rhetoric that makes a verb of "voice." I do not like the translation which reads, "Then that disciple voiced unto her that kept the door and brought in Peter." "And seeing the multitude he opened his mouth and voiced unto them 'Blessed are the poor,'" etc. [Rev.] H. LYMAN.

—A petition for the Durborow Rezolution bearing 85 namez was sent to Washington erli in May from Meadville, Pa. Among the signerz ar 24 lawyerz, 12 bangkerz or ofiserz ov bangks, five colej profesors, two juzez ov the District court, two editorz, and a number ov stenograferz. The namez wer colected by William Channing Brown.

—Mr. O. C. Blackmer, hwen he yuzez reformed speling in biznes corespondens, prints at the hed ov hiz leter-paper, with a ruber-stamp:

The Appendix to the Century Dictionary
is authority for my Amended Spellings.
an exelent idea.

A Question for the Philological Association.—Hwen a comitte ov the American Philological Association drew up the Standard Fonetic Alfabet, in 1877, there wer several questions hwich it was unabl to reach an agreement upon. Won ov theze was hwether *c* or *k* shoud be yuzed for the *k*-sound, and a truse was made in this case by puting both leterz into the alfabet. The redundansi thus made, hwile not the worst fault that an alfabet can hav, iz stil a fault that shoud be corrected. It iz quite likeli that the events ov the past 15 yearz, especiali the apearans ov alfabetz for speling jeografical namez, riting international langguajez, and recording unritn langguajez, hav thrown enuf liht on this question to enabl it to be desided. Hwy can not some such rezolution az this be introdused at the anual meeting this sumer:—

Rezolvd: that in the opinion ov this Association the leter *k* iz preferabl to the leter *c* for representing the consonant in "key," in riting Ingglisch foneticali? OUR LANGUAGE haz shown that nearli all speling-reformerz ar ov this opinion, and I am now waiting onli for the aproval ov the filolojists to enabl me to ad this item to the list of the thingz that ar agreed upon. With this point desided there woud be jeneral agrement on all the consonants exsept the six provisionali ritn with digrafs. The matter iz respectfuli referd to thoze speling-reformerz who ar memberz ov the A. P. A.

Jeografical Speling.—The Council of the Royal Geographical Society, ov Ingglan, haz issued a sirclur letter in hwich gratification iz exprest at the unexpected suces ov the movement for sistematic speling in geografical namez, initiated by the Council in 1885. The basal prinsipl ov the Society's speling iz that "vowels are pronounced as in Italian and consonants as in English." The letter states that the sistem haz been adopted by the British Admiralty, War, Foreign, and Colonial Offices, and by the last haz been recomended to the coloniz. "Even more important, however, than these adhesions," it continuez, "is the recent action of the Government of the United States of America, which after an exhaustive enquiry, has adopted a system in close conformity with that of the Royal Geographical Society." The council anounsez also that it haz desided to begin tentativli indexez giving the accepted form of plase-namez in a few rejionz.

QUERIZ.

2. (Anser.) Somtime ago you askt for Ingglish wayz ov speling wordz. I find "pourtrayed" in Taylor on the "Alfabet."—N. J. W.

6. Can you inform me through the columns of OUR LANGUAGE what the right pronunciation of "tour" is?—J. D. W.

[The only pronunciation of "tour" given by Webster, the Century, and Stormonth is *toor*. This is also the pronunciation of the word in the French language, from which it came into English.—Editor.]

Reportorial.—I trust you will not think it ungracious if I venture to make a protest against the word "reportorial" * * * I object to "reportorial" because it is formed in defiance of analogy, and, therefore, breaks what should be a rule. "Editorial" and "dictatorial" are correct, because they retain the last vowel of "editor" and "dictator." "Magisterial" retains the last vowel of "*magister*," and "secretarial" retains the *a* of "secretary." * * * Why, then, write "reportorial" against analogy, instead of "reporterial" with it?—*A. Jones in The Phonographic Magazine.*

The editor of the *Magazine* finds his correspondent's point well taken, and as the "Century Dictionary" calls "reportorial," "An objectionable word, not in good use," he has decided to use "reporterial" instead.

EDITOR'S CHAT ABOUT WORDS.

The word "science" is getting to be woefully misused. The *New York School Journal* cries out indignantly because "The *Post* of this city has discovered that education is not a science—only an art." This the *Journal* calls "belittling" education. A writer in the *Popular Science Monthly* (July, 1891) says "The science of agriculture must always be the mother of its art." Three books have been published in England recently having respectively the titles, "The Art and Science of Brewing, The Science and Art of Butter making, and Science and Practice of Stock-Exchange Speculation." Then, too, a prize-fighter often is said to have more "science" than his opponent. In all these cases "science" is applied to something which is not a science but an art. According to Webster "science" is "knowledge classified and made available" and "art" is "the application of knowledge or power to practical purposes." In a word, science is knowing; art is doing. Education is an art and it is no more belittled

by being called one than sculpture or painting is. It is to the credit of an art to be largely based on science, as education is upon psychology, and modern agriculture upon botany and several others, but confusing the one thing with the other should be avoided.

Science suggests "scientist"—a word which is sternly frowned upon by many writers. Prof. Huxley actively wages war upon it; thus he says in a magazine article (*Popular Science Monthly*, June, 1889), "And, if I must accept the hideous term 'scientist' (to which I object even more than I do to infidel), I am ready to admit that I am one of the people so denoted." Many scientific writers, both British and American, are careful to say "men of science" rather than use this word, while by others it does not appear to be tabooed. Dr. Andrew D. White speaks of "Great theological scientists" in his "New Chapters in the Warfare of Science" (*Popular Science Monthly* v. 40, p. 581). The origin of the word is certainly respectable. On this point Webster quotes Prof. B. A. Gould, of Harvard, as stating that he proposed it about 1850. It had been proposed, however, ten years earlier by Dr. Whewell, who wrote in his "Philosophy of the Inductive Sciences," *Aphorisms*, p. cxiii,—

"As we can not use physician for a cultivator of physics, I have called him a 'physicist.' We need very much a word to describe a cultivator of science in general. I should incline to call him a 'scientist'."

The only objection to the word is that it consists of a root from one language grafted with an affix from another. Such combinations should be avoided but it is not worth while to try to eject from the language those that have secured a good foothold. In order to do this we should have to change "scientist" to "scientor," "geographer" "photographer," etc., to "geographist," "photographist," etc. "Agriculturist," "socialist," and "sensualist" would have to go the way of "scientist," for they have the same fault, and "flirtation" must also be tabooed. When the title of "coroner" was first used in England it indicated that the officer who bore it was a representative of "the crown" (corona = crown). This officer was charged with investigating suspicious deaths because killing a man was regarded as robbing the king of a subject.

The *New York Tribune* in its recently published directory of American millionaires uses the verb "to merchandise," both as transitive and intransitive. Men are therein said to have made their money in "merchan-

dising," and in one case it is "merchandising groceries." This looks queer, but it is only reviving an ancient verb. Bacon is authority for its intransitive use, and Shakspeare wrote, "Love is merchandised."

There is not the same justification for "municipalize," which monstrosity I noted some months ago in the columns of the Boston paper, *To-day*. "Philadelphia has municipalized the manufacture and service of gas" was the phrase.

Some writers insist on comparing or modifying qualities that can exist in only one degree. If a thing is complete, for instance, nothing can make it "more complete"; neither can it be "less complete," for if less than complete it is not complete at all. So, also, if a rule is universal, calling it "very universal" adds nothing to it. In the "Theory of Light," by Thomas Preston, an English physicist, the author says (Preface, p. vi), "it might now reasonably form part of the course of very junior students," which is like speaking of "the very shorter men."

I have recently heard two ladies who ought to know better say "tinny" for "tiny," and a young business man mangle the word "treatise." I refrained from taking out my notebook in this man's presence, and so can not say now whether he called it "tre-a-tis" or "tre-ta-is," but I know he made three syllables of it. At a business meeting which I recently attended the secretary of a company, in reading documents, obliterated the *r* in "undersigned," thus converting the *subscribing* officers into *unintentional* officers.

Running together "is not," "are not," and "do not," making "isn't," "arn't," and "don't," is not deemed proper except in familiar writing, and running "can not" together into "cannot," although without contraction, should be regarded in the same way.

CORRESPONDENTS.

G. D. BROOMELL.—The key to the amended spelling of OUR LANGUAGE is that it is designed as an object-lesson to show spelling-reformers how far they have advanced toward general agreement upon a fonetic scheme. As a whole, this spelling goes beyond that in the appendix to the "Century Dictionary." I do not, however, change *o* to *u* in "other, done," etc., because opinions differ as to whether the proper character for this sound is *u*, with or without a diacritic, or a new letter. The same applies to "work, word," etc., while dropping the *o* from "throu" would involve taking sides on the question of the Continental or English vowel-scale. All reformers understand that the

lengthening of "langguaje" is temporary and what 'the unrejenerate' think of it is a secondary matter. This paper is designed chiefly for a medium of communication among reformers, not, as some others have been, a series of tracts for winning converts. I make an exception of the *h* in "eiht" and retain some other silent letters so as not to make seven words too hard to recognize. Of course writing "scool" in one place and "school" in another was a slip of the pen. I do not write "diphthong" because this word is pronounced "diphthong" in England. In reforming the English language we must not leave out our Hamlet. You are right about "three," it shall be "thre" after this. The Literary Note was in old spelling because it did not have spelling-reform for its subject matter. Perhaps I ought to keep a note standing about the spelling of quotations, but every line of space in my small sheet is precious.

Persons who wish me to take further steps forward can hasten the time when I shall do so by taking part in the discussions on the number of sounds to be represented and the best means of representing them, which are going on in this paper, and helping to secure general agreement on each disputed point. The explanations given above will probably answer other questioners besides Mr. Broomell, and together with the notes at the head of each number and the article on "The New Spelling" in April, ought to make my original (but, I trust, not erratic) plan of campaign sufficiently clear.

N. J. WERNER.—The initials followed by a colon in OUR LANGUAGE are the librarians' abbreviations, standing for the most common given name beginning with the respective initials.

You are right about "fewer hours" being better than "les hours"; "fewer" means a smaller number, "les" means a smaller quantity. The typographical errors that you found astonish me, but Lyon's "Director" and Molee's "end" were intentional.

J. A. STUART.—The re-spelling of a standard dictionary can not be yuzed during the transition period of the reform because it goes into finer distinctions than are practicable in common spelling, and because it requires market type, which would prevent any specimens being set up for local papers or in other small offices.

C. A. STORY.—Your remarks about the absence of "public demand" for fonetic spelling are entirely just. I wish your scheme did not upset English so frightfully in order to accom-

odate foren langguajez, and to make your linez and columz come out even. I also wish your pronunsiation agreed with some standard dictionari, so that you woud not make "father" rime with "bother," nor pronouns "buoy"—nobodi knos how. Tru, Conggres did pay to Fulton direct something under sevn persent and to Morse les than one persent ov hwat you ask for, but the world iz not so gileles now az it was two or thre jenerationz ago, and good men must acomodate themselvz to the prezent state ov affairs.

Editor of OUR LANGUAGE:

DEAR SIR,—In looking through your May number I was somewhat surprised at reading this paragraph: "The *Boston Evening News* prints the following headline 'SHORTER HOURS AND MORE PAY.' Anything under 60 minutes is not an hour, so *The News* probably means—Less Hours and more Pay." In this instance I cannot see the difference between shorter and less. In speaking of time, we attribute to it the idea of length. If a period of time less in length than 60 minutes should be officially and authoritatively called an hour, we should certainly have shorter hours than are now in vogue. The hours would be less, or smaller, or shorter than they now are. It seems to me, therefore that neither shorter nor less is the adjective which should have been used here. Neither has any numerical value, and number is evidently implied. May it not be that *The News* intended to say "FEWER HOURS AND MORE PAY?"

On page 12 I also noticed some sensible remarks from W. C. Albro on the use of a pronoun of the common gender. That we need such a pronoun will, I think, be admitted by all. For a long time I have thought that our present feminine would be the best word to use in this connection. If we keep HE as the masculine, and use SE as the feminine, we shall then have the word SHE, composed of the two—common to the two in form—which can stand for a name which is applied in common to the two sexes.—JOHN STORER COBB.

—Payments ov subscriptionz wer reseivd in May from—

W. C. Albro	A. V. W. Jackson
G. B. Broomell +	C. W. Knudsen +
C. E. Cardew +	A. B. Lennox +
C. E. Carey +	C. E. Nichols
J. S. Cobb +	T. A. Spry

Won ov the above leavz 3 copiz, another 4, and another 8 to be distributed az I think

best. I shall send them to the librariz ov colejez and normal scoolz. Subscriptionz for 164 copiz ar now in forse, besides 32 copiz takn last year by 21 persnz stil in dout.

LITERARI NOTES.

—Much unfamiliar lore largely from Scotch sources, is contained in a paper on "Personal Names," by Herbert Maxwell, in *Blackwood's Magazine* for April.

—[The absence of] "Entrance Requirements in English at Yale" is the subject of an article by Prof. Henry A. Beers, of Yale, in the *Educational Review* for May. Prof. Beers defends the existing order of things, as regards both English literature and the English language.

—Prof. E. A. Sonnenschein, of Mason College, Birmingham (England), describes, in the *May Educational Review*, the progress of the work that has been done in behalf of "The Parallel Study of Grammar," or uniformity in the teaching of the grammars of different languages.

—The publication of "The Phonographic Library" has been begun at the Phonographic Institute, Cincinnati, O. It is to be issued monthly, and each number will contain a complete work of standard literature printed in the Benn Pitman system of shorthand. The first number (April, 1892) contains "Sir Roger de Coverley" and the second will contain "Perseus" from "The Heroes," by Charles Kingsley.

—Prof. Knoflach haz printed a seriz ov lesnz for teaching Ingglish foneticali to adults under the title "Sound English for Foreigners." Besidez giving practis in reading they exemplify the esentialz ov Ingglish gramar. Two peculiar featurez ov Prof. Knoflach's fonetic scheme ar that it iz especiali adapted to the needz ov forenerz, and it can be ritn on the typeriterz in prezent yuse.

A Concise Disquisition of the English Language, and a Plea for Improving its Orthography. By J. P. GRUWELL, M.D. 31 p., S. The Author, Alliance, O. Paper, 15 cents.

Dr. Gruwell haz publisht an earnest pamphlet in hwich he pleadz for the reform ov Ingglish speling in the interest ov intelijent economi and to avoid the discouraging perplexiti now suferd by children in lerning to read. He was a teacher for a time before taking hiz medical degree and iz abl to speak feelingli on the educational side ov the subject. The author haz a fonetic alfabet hwich iz set forth

in the same pamphlet. Its character indicates that his opportunity for phonetic study has been limited, or else that he is bound to stick to his own ideas in opposition to all our best phonetic scholars. Thus, he declares that "long i" is not a diphthong, and he ignores the consonant *ng* entirely. His mode of supplying the deficiencies of the alphabet is also unfortunate. Much may be said in favor of utilizing *c*, *q*, and *x*, which he does, but the use of inverted letters could be tolerated only as a temporary makeshift. They would be a perpetual snare for proof-readers and general readers, for they have the look of having been turned by accident and no end of familiarity would ever overcome it, so long as the same letters in their normal position were yuzed with them. It is not pleasant to express disapproval of the production of an earnest worker, but in men's cases like the present faithfulness to the true interests of the reform demands it.

The United States Wurdur. By MORVIN FAUZDIC. 41 p., D. M. D. Fauzdic, Calamazoo, Mich., \$1.00.

This is a sad case of misdirected energy. Besides a few rules for plurals, the pamphlet consists of columns of words in common spelling, headed "British," and the same words spelled phonetically in parallel columns headed "U. S." From inspection of the lists it appears that Mr. Fauzdic spells according to a corrupt pronunciation that is not sanctioned by any dictionary. He also appears to be ignorant of what British spelling is, for under this head he gives such purely American forms as "rancor" and "clamor."

NEW BOOKS ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

[From *The Publishers' Weekly* (New York) and *The Publishers' Circular* (London) for the past month.]

Handy Guide to Correct Pronunciation and Spelling. 80 p., 18mo. London, 1s.

Haslam, T. J. Good English for Beginners. 246 p., 8vo. London, 5s.

Just the Word Wanted: a handbook of English synonyms. 126 p., 18 mo. London, 1s.

Kirwan, G. R. Primer of English Grammar. 8 vo. London, 9d.

MacCabe, J. A. Hints for Language Lessons and Plans for Grammar Lessons. 61 p., D. Boston, cl., 35 cents.

Ramsey, S: The English Language and English Grammar. 577 p., O. New York, \$3.

WESTERN FIGURES OF SPEECH.—The last sickness did the business. The chills jumped on him heavy, and poor S—— coiled up his lariat and passed over the ridge.—*Ogden (Utah) Standard*.

—The meeting of the Philological Association will be held this year at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va., and the Spelling Reform Association will meet at the same place, on the second Thursday in July.

—Another case of transposition of letters in a word is given by Mr. N. J. Werner, who writes, "I have to think once or twice every time I use 'philately' — generally hesitating on 'phitality,'" [See O. L., May, p. 14.]

—The spelling-book does not furnish food for reflection, or mental nourishment. Mechanical memorizing is the much lamented characteristic of our common schools. It is evident that such must remain their characteristic so long as English-speaking children memorize, like the Chinese, the arbitrary spelling of more than ten thousand words before they can write the language with redines.—*Dr. W. T. Harris, in the Report of the U. S. Commissioner of Education, for 1888-89.*

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The present spelling of this paper is not intended to be final, for it includes forms of some words that need to be further modified. It represents the farthest stage of agreement that spelling reformers have reached, and is based on the two following rules:—

1. SILENT LETTERS. Drop all silent letters.

2. TWENTY SOUNDS. Let the sound most commonly represented by each of the twenty following letters be always so represented:—*a* (short), *b*, *d*, *e* (short), *f*, *g*, *h*, *i* (short), *j*, *l*, *m*, *n*, *p*, *r*, *s*, *t*, *v*, *w*, *y* (consonant), *z*.

N. B.—Exceptions may be made where the operation of either rule would disguise the pronunciation of a word. Proper names are also exceptions.

All articles and letters on spelling-reform are spelled in the style of the paper except those that are inserted as illustrations of particular phonetic schemes.

ETYMOLOGICAL DIVERSIONS.

BY GEORGE L. APPERSON.

Philology, notwithstanding the vast amount of solid work that has been accomplished in recent years by the united labors of many scholars, both English and foreign, is yet somewhat overrun by the believers in guesswork, and the pleased exhibitors of their own nescience. The value of many popular works of reference has been in some degree vitiated by the leaning of their authors to easy-going unscientific methods. As an example of how little attention was paid to scientific etymology even in quite recent years, it may be mentioned that the wonderful derivation of "curmudgeon" from *cœur méchant*, first advanced by some sapient correspondent

of Dr. Johnson, and afterwards adopted by various lexicographical copyists, was gravely put forward little more than twenty years ago, in the pages of *Notes and Queries*, by the late Lord Lyttelton as the accepted etymology of the word, and no note of protest or objection appeared from any member of the numerous band of scholars and men of letters who then contributed to that invaluable periodical.

In the early days of lexicography, before Johnson's time, and even after the publication of the doctor's great book, dictionary-makers did not trouble themselves very much about etymology. They gave the derivations of comparatively few words, and when without the guide of direct connection with the classic languages of Greece and Rome, they guessed right valiantly.

One of the best of the old dictionaries was Skinner's "Etymologicon Linguae Anglicanae," published in 1671. But the author of this really valuable book, when he came to the difficult word "to shrive"—the exact derivation of which is still uncertain—attributed its origin to the Latin *scribere*, as others had done and some still do, but went on to explain that it was so connected *because* the names of persons confessing to a priest were taken down in writing—which, as everyone knows, is entirely opposed to the universal practice of the Catholic Church.

Pure guesses are plentiful in these old books. In a dictionary published anonymously in 1689, called "Gazophylacium Anglicanum," the author derives "hazel-nut," or "hasle-nut," as he spells it, by giving the Anglo-Saxon and Teutonic equivalents; and he then adds, "all perhaps from our word haste, because it is ripe before wall-nuts and

chestnuts." But as the anonymous compiler acknowledges in his preface that the chief reason why he busied himself therein was to save his time from being worse employed, the reader must not be too critical. Nearly a century later was published a "Complete English Dictionary," by the Rev. Frederick Barlow. This work contains various entertaining etymologies. "Hugger-mugger," the author says, is "corrupted, perhaps, from *huger mocker*, to hug or embrace in the dark." One can only wish that the reverend writer had condescended to quote an example of this word "huger mocker" used in the sense given. It is an uncanny word, and must assuredly have been evolved, like the typical German's camel, from the inner consciousness of the compiler.

"Porcelain," he remarks, with modest hesitation, is "supposed to be derived from *pour cent annee*, Fr. for a hundred years, it having been imagined that the materials were matured under ground for that term of years." "Jeopardy" is boldly "derived from *perdu*, Fr. I have lost." "J'ai perdu" the author must surely have intended to write, as the sound of the phrase slightly resembles that of the English word. This resemblance in sound between words of different languages is one of the rocks against which unwary guessers at etymologies must often strike.

A well-known and popular weekly journal of science—it would be unkind to give its name—not long ago had two articles on words which contained some extraordinary feats in the manufacture of derivations. A few of their beauties must suffice. "Kill" and "hill" are proved to be the same word, and "horse" is the same word as the Gothic *aihws*. Domesday is derived from *domus dei*, the house of God, because the Domesday Book was one preserved in a sacred building—which explanation is quite worthy of Mr. Bellenden Ker. Further, "navvy" is a corruption of the Danish *nabo*, a neighbour, and the verb to "cow" is merely a contraction of "coward," and so on with many equally remarkable discoveries. This sort of thing is amusing in dictionaries of the pre-scientific period, but in a paper which professes to be a journal of "exact" science it is altogether discreditable.

Apart from these special eccentricities in root-discovery, which can be traced to their originators and can consequently be directly attacked and "nailed to the counter" as spurious etymons, there are many popular etymologies whose authors are unknown, but which crop up from time to time and are

recognised as old friends. Among these are the curious results arrived at by the simple separation of a word into its component syllables, with occasionally a little judicious manipulation. The process is delightfully simple. "Mendicant" is "mend I can't." "Ratafia" need present no difficulty, for is it not obviously from *res rata fiat*, because—no etymology of this kind would be happy without its "because"—on the conclusion of a bargain the parties take together a glass of liqueur? Partridges are so called because they lie in the hollows of the fallows and so part the ridges. Quinine is named after Dr. Quinn, and golosh is just as plainly a corruption of Goliath's shoes. The list need hardly be prolonged. Most people are familiar with verbal gymnastics of this kind.—*The Gentleman's Magazine*.

HOW MENI VOWELZ AND DIPHTHONGZ?

(Continued.)

The fonetic alfabet advocated by Mr. Isaac Pitman containz sixteen vowelz and diphthongz yuzed in Ingglisch, and won that aparentli haz no Ingglisch yuse, for Mr. Pitman givz onli a foren word (Kaiser) az an exampl ov it. Ov the eihteen hwich seem to me to be nesessari he omits (3) and (25). The "Glossic" speling ov the late Dr. A. J. Ellis recognizez the same sixteen, and in fact this iz the vowel-scale that apearz oftnest in Ingglisch schemez. The Anglo-American speling agreed upon by Mr. E. Jonez, ov Liverpool, and Mrs. E. B. Burnz, ov New York, also employz onli theze sixteen.

Among American schemez, first in time comez Elias Longley's "American Phonetic Alphabet," oftn calld "the Cincinnati alfabet," hwich iz restricted to the same sixteen above mentioned, tho for five yearz it was enlarjd somewhat. A form ov this alfabet, now yuzed by Mr. G. W. Collingz in *The Leader*, containz nineteen vowel soundz, rejecting (25) but including (6) and (11). Mr. Knudsen's "Demotic Alfabet" haz sevnteen, excluding (3), and (25), but taking in (11). Dr. Vickroy providez for onli sixteen in hiz "International Alphabet," but he seemz to aknolej the distinct character ov (3) and (25). Dr. A. Hamilton yuzed fifteen hwen he was publishing *The Herald*, not including (3), (18), nor (25).

The "American Alphabet" ov Mr. John M. Mott containz eihteen vowelz, (3) and (25) being thrown out, hwile (6) and (17) ar takn in. Mr. L. L. Lockling's "American Alphabet" haz nineteen, taking in (6) and (17) but excluding (27). Mr. Ramsey, in

hiz treatis mentiond among the New Books in June, distinguishez twenti. He does not seem to admit (25), but includz (11) (giving "person" az an egzampl), also an identical sound (ov hwich he givz "girl" and "berth" az egzamplz), and the *i* in "fine" hwich he deemz distinct from the *i* in "fire." In Dr. Larison's *Jurnal ov "Orthoepe and Orthograft,"* sixteen ar yuzed, (3) and (25) not being distinguisht. "World-English," the fonetic scheme of Prof. Alexander M. Bell, employz nineteen vowelz and diphthongz, including (6), (11), and (17), but excluding (20) and (25), the former ov theze two being replaszd by *yu*. Mr. Story's scheme haz nineteen, rejecting (3), and (5), but bringing in (6), the French *u*, and a diphthong that apearz to be yuzed onli in the word "buoy" and its derivativz. Prof. Knoflach distinguishez fifteen in hiz "Sound-English," excluding (3) and (25) and representing (20) by *yu*. To theze may aded, sins it iz instructiv to "see oursels as ithers see us," that in the organ ov The Phonetic Teachers' Association, publisht in France, twenti-two vowelz (simpl and compound) ar recognizd in printing Ingglisch, won ov theze being a neutral vowel; also that in the *Stenografbladet*, publisht by Andreas Heisholt, in Norway, nineteen ar yuzed — a distinction, stranje to say, being made between *u* in "but" and *u* in "up."

The result ov this investigation, hwich haz been made az I rote, iz a surprize to me. I was not aware that so meni makerz ov fonetic schemez wer adherents ov the "six-vowel scale," comprising six long and six short vowelz, with four diphthongz. Won thing that weaknz the forse ov this fact iz that, exepting Mr. Pitman's, all the Ingglisch schemez referd to, the Anglo-American and Sound-English refrain from yuzing new or acsented leterz. Thus limited in resoursez the inventorz ov some ov them may hav been influenst to make the vowelz az few az posibl so that their task woud be the eazier. Among American alfabetz the won that shud reseiv hihest consideration in discussing this subject iz that ov the Philol. Assoc., hwich iz the production ov a committe ov five eminent scolarz, and bearcz the same relation to most ov the other schemez that the work of professionalz doez to that ov amateurz. It iz proper to ask, however, hwether this alfabet may not be too much refined for jeneral yuse.

The folowing letter on the subject ov the prezent discussion haz been reseivd from a subscriber

CONNEAUT, O., 20—6—1892.

F. A. Fernald, New York.

(3) There haz been enuf sed about this to cauz tearz suficient to drown won. Stormonth rites "cār" (care). The Yangkeez sound it az short (1) or long (4). From New York siti to San Francisco it iz (4) afected by the impure consonant *r*. Sound (4) distingtli—*a-m*, *a-r*, *c-a-r*. "Hairy" and "harry" hav nothing to do with it. That iz not a "lame spelling" that givz you the tru soundz, with the silablz properli acsented; "har'i" iz not "har-ri." Include (3) in (4).

(6) iz short (5). The Yangkeez oftn sound (4) for (5), az "ask."

(24) includez (11) and (25); *e* in "fern," "term," "girl," etc., iz more in the eye than in the ear. It iz good for orthoepists to argue over and sho "how much they don't kno." It iz hard to separate astroloji from astronomi or alchemi from chemistri. It iz simpli ū folowd by that dredful *r*. (25) iz longer than (24) becauz folowd by *r*—*ŭ-p*, *ŭ-rn*.

(16) includez (17) hwich iz shorter.

(20) *u* in "cube" iz the glide *i-u* (oo). It iz not the *u* in rude. "Use" iz a poor word with hwich to illustrate the glide *iu*, International or not. Stormonth did better. "Use," "your" "yule" ar "yus," "yur," "yul." There iz no glide *iu* in them. The consonant *y* and vowel *i* ar distinget. It iz not "ius" nor "yius" but "yus." I think that I see a litl astroloji, or *something els*, in this word "use."

(26) *ou* iz the glaid *au* in "haus" (house), plau (plow). I wons thot it shud be *ou*, but I hav chanjd my mind. You kno that wize men! chanje their mindz.

I object to shade vowelz.

L. LYON.

[The highest fonetic authoritiz, European az wel az American, describe (3) either az long (4) or (4) folowd by (11). None make it the same az (4), and the onli question iz hwether there iz enuf diferens to require separate representation. Az to the difficulti with "hairy" and "harry," the acsent iz on the first silabl in both, the *r* iz sounded onli wons in both (in ordinari speech), so that the onli way to sho the diferens between theze and similar wordz in fonetic speling iz to reprezent the vowelz diferentli.

Having been born and educated in New England, I am abl to state that the pronunciation ov "ask" hwich prevailz there doez not employ (4) but (6). The other pronunciation iz herd, however.—EDITOR.]

The Re-speling Method with Jerman and French Pupils.—Prof. Knoflach haz just concluded a cours ov 24 lesnz for the instruction of foreinerz in Ingglisch, at the roomz ov the Jerman and French branchez ov the Y. M. C. A. in New York. Az in a former instans, hwich was reported in the columz ov OUR LANGUAGE, hiz method consisted in teaching the pronunsiation, vocabulari, and prinsipal rulez ov gramar in "Sound-English," and introdusing the scolarz to the prezent speling onli after they wer acwainted with all the soundz and had a fair practical nolej ov the langguaje. The informal egzaminationz held on June 8th and 10th wer a triumfant demonstration ov the soundnes ov the method. Men who had been in this cuntri but a few months, and who, eith weeks before, did not kno a word ov the Ingglisch langguaje, convers freli on everi-day topics, and red in McGuffy's "First Reader" with fluensi and a veri distinct enunsiation. Several ov them had evn masterd all the diacritical marks yuzed in Webster's Dictionary.

An American ladi, herself an experienst teacher, took ocaasion to compliment the men, and to tel them that they knew more ov the soundz ov the Ingglisch langguaje than meni a teacher in the public schoolz ov New York siti. This iz the kind ov practical work that sooner or later iz bound to attract the attention ov the public, and wil acomplish fuli az much az eni other efforts toward bringing in the general use ov fonetic speling.

English in Japan.—A friend who has been a professor in the University of Tokyo for several years writes me that the Japanese read English a great deal but speak it much less than is commonly supposed. They do not seem to have so much difficulty with our irregular spelling as might be expected. The English letters and other writings of Japanese students are rarely misspelled, but their grammar is sometimes frightful. This comes from the system of education of old times, which was purely mnemonic. The student being used to committing to memory the complicated Chinese characters finds it quite natural to memorize the English word, reformed or unreformed in its spelling. But the grammar, which requires the application of rules, he never masters. English occupies a much greater place in Japan than any other western language. This is due to its commercial importance and to the larger number of English-speaking persons in the country. *There are schools for French and German but English has ten times the use that*

these tongues have. Yet no one need believe that the Japanese will adopt English or any other foreign language for general use. The nation as a whole is far from likely to do anything of the kind. Things foreign have reached the acme of their influence, and have been suffering a steady decline for two or three years. The transliteration of Japanese words into the Roman alphabet has been a matter of much dispute. The system in current use is based on the English values for consonants and the Italian for vowels.

Amended Speling in The Independent.—*The Independent* (hwich, I wil state for the benefit ov foren readerz, iz the foremost relijus jurnal in America) haz been open to articlz in speling aprovd by the Philological Association ever sins the Association took action upon speling. Shortly after that bodi gave out its ideal alfabet, in 1887, *The Independent* procured the new types, and printed articlz with them from Prof. Whitney, Dr. Crosby, Dr. Trumbull, Mr. A. J. Ellis, and other eminent filolojists. Sins the English Philological Society and the American Philological Association united upon the joint scheme ov rulez for partial amendments, in 1883, *The Independent* haz everi now and then printed articlz according to theze rulez, mainli by Prof. March. Theze articlz hav been reviewz ov important literari or lexicographic works and hav been givn the plase ov onor among the reviewz ov the numberz in hwich they apeard. The latest was a five-colum review ov the Oxford Dictionari (the numberz for 1891), publiht 14 April, 1892. Similar reviewz ov the Century Dictionari apeard in the same speling.

—An essay on "Spelling—Present, Past, and Future Methods of Teaching in the Public Schools," by Fred Duncan, was read before the Cass Co. (N. D.) Teachers' Association in April, and published in *The Common School* for May. Mr. Duncan iz not quite redi to come over to the suport ov the new speling, but sez in clozing: "It is our duty and to our best interests to countenance every effort in that direction, and pray that we may see the happy time when at least one thorn may be removed from the teacher's side."

—A pamphlet on speling-reform iz being prepared for the U. S. Bureau of Education. It wil record the progres ov the movemēt sins the publication ov the won issued by the Bureau in 1880.

Reformd Speling in Students' Paperz.

—The reformd speling wil continue to be uzed in *The Lafayette* under the new management. The general opinion of our exchanges and of the other papers that hav commented upon our step seems to be in favor of the new speling. In an issue of a month ago, the *Philadelphia Press* had a long editorial on reformd speling, and commended the exampl set by *The Lafayette* in adopting it. Therè ar, of course, several difficulties that wil prevent most papers from uzing the new speling. These difficulties, however, in a college paper ar overcum with litl troubl. One of the objects in view, when the editors of *The Lafayette* adopted the reformd speling, was to lead other college jurnals to follow their exampl, and thus in a small way, to aid the cause of speling reform. Our action wil not be changed, however, if the new method is not adopted by other college jurnals. — *The Lafayette*.

—Payments ov subscriptionz ar hereby acknowledgejd to hav been reseivd during June from

W. F. Dame	C. P. G. Scott +
A. Hamilton	W. Spracklin
S. L. Larned	

The number ov subscriptionz now in forse iz 168.

The Editorial "We."—Ever since this paper first appeared the editor has been intending to state his views on the above subject, and now that a subscriber, who is about to start a paper, has asked his advice, will take this occasion to do so. Only editors and kings use "we" to denote one person and my preference is to let the kings have this usage all to themselves. Where a periodical has two or more joint editors, the pronoun "we" standing for them is used, of course, in its ordinary plural sense. As to its use by a single writer, Webster has the following: "*We* is also often used by individuals, as authors, editors, etc., in speaking of themselves, in order to avoid the appearance of egotism in the too frequent repetition of the pronoun *I*." In the case of a person who is the sole editor and manager of a small paper, it seems to me that this device does not attain its object. If I were to use "we" in speaking of myself, I think I should appear to be trying to magnify myself into a plurality, in order thereby to get greater consideration for what I write. The appearance of egotism can be avoided by using the third person ("the editor") in many cases, and in others by shaping the sentence so as to bring in only "me" or "my," which custom regards as less obtrusive than "I."

"We" applied to himself by the author of a book or magazine article appears to me very much like the ostrich's mode of concealing himself.

THE SPEL-BOUND SCOLAR.

BY REV. JAMES ROGERS.

With fingerz weari and cramp't,
With ey-lidz ov hevi weiht,
A scolar sat on an oakn bench,
Plying hiz pensil and slate.
Spel — spel — spel,
In tediousnes and ache,
And stil with a vois ov ominous swel,
He murmurd, not sung, to hiz slate;
"Spel — spel — spel,
Til the brain beginz to swim;
And spel — spel — spel,
Til the eyz ar hevi and dim;
'Tiz *slay*, and *sley*, and *sleigh*;
'Tiz *pare*, and *pair*, and *pear*,
Til in the confusion I loze my way
And impatientli tear my hair.
"O, teacherz with ferule and strap,
Just thingk hwat you'r about.
It iz not wizdom you'r driving in,
But reazn you'r driving out.
'Tiz *write*, — *rite*, — *right*, — *wright*;
'Tiz *waif*, — *wave*, — *waive*;
Ambitiousli longing to be a man
I'm onli fashion'z slave.
"But hwy do I talk ov longingz?
Ambition for me iz not wel;
I'm bard from the templ ov nolej,
Spel-bound, til I lern to spel.
In vain miht I stüdi nature,
And try to draw truth from her wel;
No matter how much or hwat els I kno,
If I do not kno how to spel.
* * * * *
"The men hav their lihtning expres,
And talk throu a telephone;
But we children must go with the old ox-cart,
In the way that grandfather haz gone,
Must make just az meni marks —
Must spel az he did in hiz day —
They ar sureli afraid we wil get ahead,
Or they'd sho us an ezier way.
"I lead the scool in numberz,
Geografi, grammar az wel,
Exel them all in riting,
But do not lern to spel.
In figurez there'z alwayz reazn,
In gramar good jujment wil tel,
But neither taste jujment nor reazn,
In the styl we ar taut to spel.

* * * *

"Next term I must leav the scool
 With a thouzand thingz not lernd!
 Must I yield forever that hih endeavor
 For hwich my soul haz yernd?
 A litl weeping woud eze my hart,
 But in their brini wel
 My tearz must stop, for everi drop
 Hinderz my lerning to spel."

With fingerz weari and cramp,
 With ey-lidz ov hevi weilht,
 The scolar sat on an oakn bench,
 Plying hiz pensil and slate.
Witch — *-wich* — *which*
 In tediousnes and ache,
 And stil with a vois ov ominus pitch,
 He murmured this song to hiz slate.

—*Selected.*

EDITOR'S CHAT ABOUT WORDS.

It is amusing to see the pains that some conscientious persons take to pronounce certain words as they are spelled. A clerk in a certain New York publishing-house always says "ëng-gland" instead of "Ing-gland," and a gentleman in the same establishment sounds the *l* of "folk" in the term "folk-lore," though I think he pronounces "folks" correctly. Another gentleman recently told me that "biznes" did not represent the pronunciation of "business," because it leaves out the *i* before the *n*. The comparatively new-fangled notion of saying "i-ther" and "ni-ther" for "ë-ther" and "në-ther" is another case in point. The pronunciation of a language is subject to a process of evolution which proceeds in a definite direction. The spelling of English in many cases represents forms that have been left behind by the developing pronunciation, so that attempts to bring the speech back to them are as senseless as trying to put a butterfly back into its chrysalis-case, or to make a pine-tree grow toward the ground.

The error of putting an adverb between the parts of an infinitive has been pointed out so many times that it would seem to need no further mention if it did not constantly reappear in speech and writing. A recent magazine article contains "to entirely satisfy" and "to wholly supply," in which "entirely" and "wholly" should be either the first or the last words of their respective phrases. I think it would be a good idea to extend this rule to other parts of the verb besides the infinitive, though I have never seen this advocated by anyone else. Thus the expression "*would be extracted easily*" seems to me

preferable to "*would be easily extracted*," "*probably will be included*" better than "*will probably be included*" and "*has gone recently*" better than "*has recently gone*."

Some errors of speech are as hard to kill as weeds, and the use of "partially" meaning *with partiality* for "partly," meaning *in part*, is one of them. A case of it is given in the Publishers' Note to the American edition of "Longmans' Primary School Grammar," which reads, "the text has been partially revised," etc.

One might infer that girls are sometimes named William in England, judging from allusions in British publications to a certain "Deceased Wife's *Sister Bill*." A similar clumsy attempt at brevity gives "The Housing of the Working Classes Act," which seems to imply that it is the *Act* for which "housing" is provided.

Not every one who uses the abbreviations MS and MSS knows that the former is singular and the latter plural. Letters often pass through my hands containing such expressions as "I send you herewith a MSS" i. e., a manuscripts. The latest, by the way, was from a professor in a western college.

Persons who are going to the Adirondacks for the first time this summer will find it useful to be informed about the uses of certain words there. Thus it is customary to speak, not simply of coming and going, but of "coming in" and "going out," for everybody is assumed to be in camp while there, even if staying at one of the largest hotels. A smoky fire built to drive away mosquitos is a "smudge." Then every path is a "trail;" hence if the intending visitor should happen to take Cooper's "Pathfinder" along to read there, he would do well to put a paper cover on the volume, marked in large letters THE TRAILFINDER.

I am pained every time I see the phrase World's Columbian Exposition to think that our public men can not write better English. Having the word "exhibition" in our own language, it was a piece of ignorant apishness to use the French name for the same thing. The French people do not borrow the English name for their exhibitions, and we ought to be just as independent. But there is a class of persons in this country, of small culture and less knowledge, who think anything foreign must be very fine.

The word "*extraordinarius*," applied to a class of professors in German universities, is often translated by the English word that sounds most like it—"extraordinary"—though it does not mean that at all. Such

slovenly translation would not be accepted by any pedagogue from a first year's pupil in Latin. The "professor extraordinarius" has an appointment without a salary, and derives his income from the fees of the students that he draws to himself. A good rendering of his title would be "extra-professor."

Does n't it savor of affectation for business men to use the Latin "per" when there are shorter English words that can serve the same purpose? "Spot, Cash & Co. per X. Y. Z.," would better be "by X. Y. Z." Moreover, in such phrases as "per barrel" and "per year" there is a mixture of languages that should be avoided by writing "a barrel" and "a year." "Per centum," "per annum," and "per diem" are free from such mixing, but why should modern business men use phrases from a dead language?

[Phonetic Spelling Scheme, No. 6.]

AN EX-KOMPOZITOR'Z ALFABET.

Mr. Fernald:—The characterz ov eni alfabet oht tu be eezili joint in riting; markt leterz can not be ritn rapidli. In a fonetik alfabet ov 33 leterz I discard æ, œ, c, q, x; also the small-caps; cast f without a kern, and arranj the small-cap spase for new cap and lower-case characterz; the rest az now.

Yu ask about 3, 11, 18, 20, 25, 26, 27. For 3 I yuz 4-11. My 11 iz a new character, e, for e, i, u, or y before r, dubling r tu prolong the sound,--er, err;--errn for 25. Put r intu ob, and yu hav 18,-orb; add il tu short-o iz 27,-oil; 20 iz e, i, or y before u,-23;--at tizez ew, in few, iz preferabl; 26 shud remain 'out', til yu abolish broad-au; 6 iz neether ask nor arsk, but ask; 'put' iz 23. My characterz ar:—

Vowelz.—4.--A, a, am; 5.--A, a, arm; 8.--Ee, ee, meet; 10.--E, e, met; 11.--E, e, fern; 15.--I, i, ill; 16.--O, o, old, o-bey; 19.--O, o, odd; 21.--Uu, uu, rude,-ruud; 23.--U, u, full; 24.--U, u, but.

Diphthongs.—1.--Ei, ei, or ey, veil, obey; 13.--Ai, ai, or ay, aisle, or aye; 27.--oi, oil.

New Consonants.—C, c, church,-qerq; Δ, δ, (Greek delta) 'dh' in breathe,-breed; Š, š, sh in shall,-sal, ti or si in tion, sion,-sijn; Θ, θ, ϑ, (Greek theta) th in breath,-breθ; 3, 'zh' in pleasure-plez3er, rj, for ng.

MY IDEA ILLUSTRATED IN RITING.

*Bas ee fonetik alfabet di
gaid me bee toht 3r 2rt ov reeding,
not fluentli, bjt vel, b3rd in fonetik
ik and in ordinairi buks, in three
mynuds,—ay, often in twenty ourz ov
Dyos instrykshyn—ei task hwi3 y rewt
akkomplish in three yeez ov toil bar
di cold alfabet. Hwot fader 3r teeger
wil not gladli heil and ernstli
work for dis greit buun tu edyu-
keshyn, dis powerful meishen for 3r
diffekshyn ov noly? Dis paragr3f
konteing oht di soundz in di byggly
langguaj. Sjdi it at y3r leeger.*

JOSEPH A. STUART.

[Mr. Stuart doez not include (18) nor (25) in hiz list ov vowelz, but from hiz letter and the ilustrativ paragraf it apearz that he distinguishez them by folowing consonantz—h and rr, respectivli. Hens hiz list agrees practicali in number with the eithteen propozed by me.—EDITOR.]

Phenomenal.—A subscriber in Burma bids me do penance for using the phrase "phenomenal success." He calls this use of "phenomenal" a horrible bit of journalistic slang, too prevalent in both England and America. There is no question about the word being used in the right sense, but it is one of those superlative expressions that professional 'boomers' use, where good taste would be content with "wonderful" or "extraordinary."

—Woud it not be a good idea for the S. R. A. to hav an exhibit at the Columbian Exposition? Its work iz larjli educational hens a plase coud probabli be had in the spase asignd to education. The exhibit shoud consist ov a colection ov books, comprizing the publicationz ov the Association and all other meritorius publicationz that hav been issued in the interest ov spelling-reform.

—Altho the spelling ov Spanish iz veri nearli fonetik, yet a reform in that langguaje iz calld for. A pamflet entitled "La Reforma de la Ortografia Qastellana," comprizing two articlz contributed to *La Revista Contemporanea* (Madrid), by J. Jimeno Agius, haz just been publiht in "Belparaiso."

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N. B.—Exceptions may be made where the operation of either rule would disguise the pronunciation of a word. Proper names are also exceptions.

All articles and letters on spelling-reform are spelled in the style of the paper except those that are inserted as illustrations of particular phonetic schemes.

A blue X on the wrapper of this number means that your subscription has expired. The editor hopes that all expired subscriptions will be renewed promptly.

AMERICAN SPEECH AND STANDARD ENGLISH.*

BY FRED. H. SYKES, M. A.

To any one at all familiar with the study of language, the speech of a new country—especially if that country be one with such varied nationalities and physical conditions as America—offers an endless field for linguistic research, endless problems of absorb-

ing interest in all departments of philology. What the botanist finds in the study of changes in plant life under different conditions resulting from transplantation, let us say, from sea to land, or from the temperate zone to the torrid; what the ethnologist finds in the study of the life of a race of men affected by the soil, climate, and other physical features of a new country to which they have emigrated: this in a large measure is the nature of the interest that the student of language feels in studying the character and development of the speech of England transplanted into America, acclimatizing itself, so to speak, and extending with the extension of settlement to the remotest parts of the North American continent.

In this paper, in the brief half-hour which your Secretary assigns for the presentation of each topic, I desire to show the nature of the linguistic field that is before us in America and to indicate in a hasty and imperfect way the main characteristics of American speech as distinguished from the average speech of educated Englishmen, generally known as Standard English.

From the nature of the colonization of America, the existence of dialects, or at any rate, provincialism of speech could be presupposed. The colony of forty-one families that the *Mayflower* landed at Plymouth was the nucleus about which gathered the great Puritan emigration of the time of the first Charles; "some of them," to quote Green, "men of large landed estate, some zealous clergymen like Cotton, Hooker and Roger Williams; some shrewd London lawyers or young scholars from Oxford. The bulk were God-fearing farmers from Lincolnshire and

*Read before the Modern Language Association of Ontario, at its session in Toronto, April 19, 1892.

The Decay of Rhetoric.—The taste for rhetoric is not quite extinct, never, indeed, can be extinct while susceptibility to rhythm remains perfect; but the taste for rhetoric as a medium, as something intended to lend flavor to every intellectual dish, bite to every intellectual effort, is wholly dead. It bores people to suffocation, and they would as soon hear trumpets and trumpets only, whenever they want music. . . . The most loved poetry of the day has little rhetoric in it; there is little, for instance, in Tennyson, none in Matthew Arnold; it has passed out of all oratory but the Irish; and if it lingers in second-rate sermons or popular newspaper articles, that is because they are addressed to an audience not yet disenchanted of the charm of sonorousness, who find attraction in the "firing" of bells, and might find it in a shilling edition of "Salathiel."—*The Spectator*.

—*The Phonetic Journal* givz the text ov a dry-goodz advertizment hwich occupied a half-paje in the *Drapers' Record* (London), resentli. It was printed in reformd spelling but without new leterz.

—Mr. E. A. Pixley, a graduate ov Wesleyan Universiti, haz been preparing himself for misionari work by setting up the New Testament in fonetic speling, at the establishment ov Mr. Isaac Pitman. He goes to the Kongo cuntri, hwere he wil yuze hiz nolej ov fonetics in printing in the nativ langguajez.

—The first part ov a French dictionari in reformd spelling was publisht last year by the Société Philologique. The chanjez consist mainli in dropping yuseles consonants.

—Won way our absurd speling works mischief iz, that meni persnz, after atending scool for yearz, find it imposibl to spel correctli; and az they do not wish to expoze their shortcomingz in this respect, they giv up riting leterz altogethew, becauz, you see, it iz onli hwen a persn rites that hiz frendz discover hiz bad speling. But the persn who onli readz and never expresez hiz own ideaz in riting, iz but half-educated and half-developt. I thinggk this enervating, retarding influens upon mental development by the current orthografi haz not been suficientli considered by our educatorz.—ELIZA B. BURNZ, in *The Twentieth Century*.

—There iz a speling-reform sositati in France (Société de Réforme Orthographique), with hedquarterz at Lyon, hwich invites the *adhesion ov all who desire eni reform hwat-ever in French speling*. Memberz reseiv the

Bulletin ov the sositati, and activ memberz may obtain the *Revue de Philologie* at a reduced prise.

—Speling-reform iz being advocated in New Zealand. A long and forsibl artiel on "English Cacography" apeard there last year in the pajez ov *Typo*, a printers' magazine.

NEW BOOKS ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

[From *The Publishers' Weekly* (New York) and *The Publishers' Circular* (London) for the past month.]

Barrere, Albert, and C. G. Leland, comps and eds. A dictionary of slang, jargon and cant, embracing English, American and Anglo-Indian slang, pidgin English, tinkers' jargon and other irregular phraseology. 2 v., sm. 4to. New York, cl., \$17.50.

Dembitz, Lewis N. Law language; with an appendix on the language of religion and politics. 220 p., D. Louisville, Ky., \$1.

Houston, Edwin J. A dictionary of electrical words, terms and phrases. 2d edn., enl. 562 p. il. O. cl., \$5.

Sweet, H. A new English grammar, logical and historical. Pt. I, Introd., phonology and accidence. N. Y., 499 p. 12mo. cl. \$2.60.

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From the nature of the colonization of America, the existence of dialects, or at any rate, provincialism of speech could be presupposed. The colony of forty-one families that the *Mayflower* landed at Plymouth was the nucleus about which gathered the great Puritan emigration of the time of the first Charles; "some of them," to quote Green, "men of large landed estate, some zealous clergymen like Cotton, Hooker and Roger Williams; some shrewd London lawyers or young scholars from Oxford. The bulk were God-fearing farmers from Lincolnshire and

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the eastern counties." Nothing did these God-fearing farmers of the eastern counties carry to their new home more securely than their own spoken language, the dialects of their English homes. The other day, in looking over Halliwell's "Dictionary of Archaic and Provincial words," I came upon a poem called "A Lincolnshire Tale," which affords the best immediate illustration I can give, of the close relation of the speech of the old shires and the new colony. I quote a few characteristic lines merely.

"And git thee sen (soon) made smart and pretty,
Wi' yaller ribbons round the waist,
"And I'll go fetch my sister Bess,
I'm sartin sure she's up and ready."

* * *

And brother Joss,
A-shoutin' to the folks as passes."

The pronunciation of "git" for "get," "yaller" for "yellow," "sartin" for "certain," the syntax in "I'm sartin sure she is up and ready," and "A-shoutin' to the folks as passes," come to our ears with the familiar ring of the "Biglow Papers" or of "Sam Slick." This point is fundamental in the consideration of American dialects, so that I may be pardoned for adding additional illustrations. A cursory examination of the late Mr. Lowell's inimitable work will reveal a number of expressions which to most of us have a decidedly Yankee flavor, but *which are well-known words in one or more dialects of England*.

Readers of Hawthorne and Howells (in his representation of the speech of Yankee characters, the Laphams for example) will easily find verifications and extensions of these so-called Yankeeisms. As illustrations of "Yankeeisms" that are dialect words straight from the English counties we may take:—

Spry, as in "The old gentleman is quite spry this morning," for "lively" etc.

Dander, as in "He lets his dander rise," for "anger."

Swop, as in "He swops horses," for "exchanges," "trades."

Lick, as in "We can lick creation," for "beat," "thrash."

To set by, or *set store by*, as in "Folks ain't sot by," for "esteemed highly," "treated with consideration."

Guess, as in "I guess I'll go," for "suppose," "think," etc.—once, as Chaucer shows, *standard English*. ("Of twenty yeer of age he was, I gesse." *Prologue*, l. 82.)

Gump, as in "He's a gump," for "foolish fellow."

Gumption, as in "You have no gumption," for "talent," "strength of character."

Cute, as in "He was too cute for you," for "shrewd," "clever."

Bail, as in "The bail of the pail is broken," for "the handle."

Barm, for "yeast," is a well known word in the Elizabethan drama.

Cade, as in "a cade lamb," for "a pet lamb"—one raised by hand.

Grammatical peculiarities likewise abound, such as the use of the double for the single negative, constructions such as "I had ought," or the possessive form, "hisn," "of yourn," "of hern," etc., and the frequency of constructions with the verbal noun, as "a-getherin," "a-turnin'."

The vocabulary of the Yankee dialect, however, is not only marked by provincialisms and archaisms, it has had a vigorous linguistic growth. In it old words took on new senses:

Cry, as "They were cried next Sunday," means "to have the bans published."

Curious came to mean "excellent."

I calculate came to mean, "I think."

Up became a verb, as in "He ups and says."

Stuffy came to mean "sulky."

Train, as in "He's on a train," for "frolic."

Sound, as in "The child is sound," for "sound asleep."

Soldier, in the form "sojer," as a verb, may mean to "loiter," "lounge."

In addition new coined words and phrases abound:

Croaky, as in "The child is croaky," for "hoarse."

Chipper, as in "You feel quite chipper this morning," for "lively," "in good spirits."

On the mending hand, for "convalescent."

"Citified," "skoot" (to make off quickly), "all-fired" (exceedingly), "tough it out" (endure it to the end), "no great shakes," (not good for much) and many more.

The phonology of the Yankee dialect presents peculiarities even more marked than the peculiarities of vocabulary. The exact nature of the phonetic laws that operate on New England speech has not yet been determined, but judging merely from the examples that follow, we can recognize in some dialective peculiarities of English, in others an arrested development, in others a marked tendency towards palatal vowels.

i for oi: bile, boil; jine, join; pizen, poison.

u for iu: dooty, duty; institootion, institution.

e for u: sech, such; tetch, touch; resh, rush.

i for e: kittle, kettle; git, get; yit, yet.

ee or e for i: leetle, little; ef, if.

e for o: fer, for.

u for o: hull, whole; hum, home; stun, stone.

e for a: hev, have; ketch, catch; hendy, handy.

a for e: narves nerves; larn, learn; eternal, eternal.

ee for a: keer, care; skeercely, scarcely; sheer, share; dreen, drain.

Among the most peculiar is the breaking and nasalization of the diphthong *ow* into *æow*—*næow*, *fæound*, *hæow*, (where *æ* represents a flat *a* as in 'man' nasalized,) for *now*, *found*, and *how*.

[I never meet with this pronunciation, *hæow*, without thinking of Dr. Holmes' quiet thrust at provincialisms in the "Autocrat of the Breakfast Table." "A movement or a phrase," says the exclusive doctor, "often tells you all you want to know about a person. Thus: *How's your health* (*Heow's yo haalth*) instead of *How do you do?* or calling your little dark entry a 'hall' and your old rickety one-horse wagon a 'kerridge'—or saying 'you remember of' such a thing, or that you have been 'stoppin' at Deacon Somebody's—and other like expressions. One of my friends had a little marble statuette of Cupid in the parlor of his country-house—bow, arrows, wings and all complete. A visitor indigenous to the region, looking pensively at the figure, asked the lady of the house 'if that was a statoo of her deceased infant.' What a delicious," adds the doctor, "though somewhat voluminous biography, social, educational, and æsthetic, in that brief question."—From *The Educational Journal*, Toronto.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

CORRESPONDENTS.

On p. 31 you ask "Would it not be a good idea for the S. R. A. to have an exhibit at the Columbian Exposition?" Indeed it would! Just the idea that I consent to express in a note to you near two months ago, but was too busy to finish and forward the note. Scarcely less so now.

An additional idea to yours that I would suggest is this. Let there be a room through our several organs some office or room to be known as *Hedquarterz*. This on the supposition that we can not have a genuine *Convention*, which is what I would like best to see. Perhaps O. C. Blackmer or Henry Boss will be good enough to let their "lath-string hang outside" for us.

A. J. PIERCE.

[It would be very pleasant if some Chicago friend who has a conveniently located store or office should invite us to meet with another there. More of us would be likely to come together, and we should interrupt our host's business less, if with afternoon in the week, say, were to be selected for 'dropping in' at the headquarters. If not convenient for with accommodation us all the season of the Exposition, two hosts might divide the time between them.—Editor.]

Do you think it would be a good idea if the appendix of the Century Dictionary could be published separate? I should think it would be good for a printing-office that wanted to use the amended spelling.

HALSEY V. FITCH.

[The same suggestion is made by Mr. James Rogers. It would be very desirable to have this done if the same list of words had not been published previously in *Spelling* No. 3, copies of which probably can be had from The Library Bureau, 146 Franklin Street, Boston, Mass., at 25 cents each.—EDITOR.]

NEW BOOKS ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

[From *The Publishers' Weekly* (New York) and *The Publishers' Circular* (London) for the past month.]

Baboo English. Collected and edited by T. W. J. 178 p., 8 vo. Calcutta and London, 1 sh.

Cochran, W: C. The students' law lexicon. 2nd ed., rev. 375 p., D. Cincinnati, shp. \$2.50.

Dickson, W: Bradford. Modern punctuation. For stenographers, typewriter operators, and business men. 134 p., S. New York, cl. 75 cents.

Grandgent, C. H. German and English sounds. 48 p., D. Boston, cl. 55 cents.

Harvard University. Studies and notes in philology and literature. 124 p., O. Boston, pap. \$1.00.

Rogers, J. W. F. Grammar and logic in the 19th century as seen in a syntactical analysis of the English language. 2nd edn. 228 p., 8 vo. London, 3 sh. 6 d.

Shaw, E: R. English composition by practice. 203 p., il., D. New York, cl. 75 cents.

—The only way to keep informed as to what is going on in the spelling-reform movement is to take OUR LANGUAGE.

—The editor wil be away on a vacation from August 13th to 29th, and begz induljens for delay in atending to letterz and orderz that arive during that period, also for a probabl delay ov a few dayz in getting out the September O. L. He intendz after hiz return to aranje for yuzing a more advanst style ov reformd speling in this paper.

CHARLOTTESVILLE MEETING OF THE S. R. A.

[Reported for OUR LANGUAGE.]

The 17th anual meeting ov the Spelling Reform Association was held at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va., July 14th, 1892, at 4 P. M., after the ajurnment ov the Philological Association. The Prezi-dent, Prof. F. A. March, was in the chair. Among thoze present wer Prof. J. M. Garnett and Prof. Prof. M. W. Humphreys, ov the University of Va., Prof. S. G. Ashmore, ov Union College; Prof. W. O. Sproul, ov the University of Cincinnati; Prof. C. J. Smith, ov Vanderbilt University; Prof. Hall, Charles P. G. Scott, and other memberz ov the Philological Association.

In the abeens ov the secretari, Mr. Scott was elected secretari *pro tem*. Reports wer presented from the secretari, Mr. Melvil Dewey, the trezurer, Mr. C. E. Sprague, and the publication comitee, the last refering to the efort to extend the sirculation ov *Spelling*, the organ ov the Association. Copiz ov the last number wer distributed among thoze present.

The prezident made an adres, reviewing the histori ov the Association and the progres ov the movement for reform. He mentiond especiali az the most important step in advans, the formal recognition in the great "Century Dictionary" ov the need and dezirabiliti ov reform, and the aid it haz givn to the cauz by printing the complete "List of Amended Spellings" recomended by the American Philological Association and the Philological Society, ov London. The establishment, by the government, of the U. S. Board on Geographic Names iz another important event, az giving practical recognition to the prinsipl ov official regulation ov the speling ov wordz yuzed in public documents. The action ov the Chemical Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in adopting a seriz ov reformz in the speling and evn the pronunsiation ov termz curent *in siens*, iz another encurajing step. It givz ground for the hope that the government may be indused to go further, and regulate

the speling of scientific az well az ov geographic termz ocuring in public documents.

The egzisting ofisers ov the Association wer re-elected [See O. L. for Aug., 1891]. After a jeneral discussion the Association ajurnd to meet in Chicago, in July, 1893. The Philological Association, the Modern Language Association, and a larje number ov other lerned and educational sosietiz wil meet in Chicago at the same time, and it iz hoped that there wil be a great convention ov the frendz ov speling-reform.

—Let no won imajin that the editor admirez the mongrel style ov speling that he yuzez. He iz greatli dissatisfied with it, and intendz to advans toward full fonetic speling just az fast az reformerz come to substantial agrement on the points hwich at present ar in dispute. If eni won ov the rival fonetic schemez wer to be adopted now in OUR LANGUAGE the paper woud ceas to represent the hole bodi ov reformerz and woud become the organ ov a clique.

—The American Book Company, hwich furnishez the greater part ov the scool-books yuzed in the United States, haz adopted the formz ov jeografical termz aproved by the U. S. Board on Geographic Names for all its text-books on jeografi. Other jeografical publisherz and a great meni newzpaperz also hav adopted the desisionz ov the Board.

National Spelling Bureau.—On July 8th, Senator Perkins, of Kansas, introdused into the U. S. Senate, by request, a concurrent rezolution providing for a radical chanje in the present sistem ov speling. The rezolution propozez to plase under the control ov the Bureau of Education the alfabet and the riht yuse ov letterz in government printing, and the Bureau iz to become a gide to the nation in speling, and to report to Congress the chanjez made.

—Mr. Brander Matthews comez out az an advocate ov simplified speling in a vigorous and scolarli articl ov sevn pajez in the July *Harpers'*, under the titl "As to American Spelling." Part ov hwat he sez iz reprinted in this number ov OUR LANGUAGE.

—In a resent number ov *The Educational Exchange* this advertisment iz displayd in the midl ov a full page: "If you expect to have a nice CATALOG printed this season write for prices. The Alabama Printing Co., Publishers of The Educational Exchange Montgomery, Ala." The Overman Wheel Co., also haz resentli referd to its *Catalog* in an advertisment in *The Bicycling World*.

A FEW WORDS ON THE TENSES OF ENGLISH VERBS.

BY JOHN STORER COBB, LL.D.

A difficult problem, upon which much time and labor have been expended, is the adoption of a set of terms, which shall express reasonably and clearly the various times, to which is attributed the action or condition of which one is speaking. In the ordinary lists of tenses we find one or more of the following: the *imperfect*, the *perfect*, and the *pluperfect*. Of the three periods into which we, for convenience, divide that which we call time, the past is the only one which can, by any process of reasoning, be called perfect. Yet it is this which is fixed upon to stigmatize imperfect. An action or a condition may be spoken of under the aspect of continuance, but the consideration of it in its progression may refer to either the past, the present, or the future. *I am walking* or *I shall be walking* conveys the notion of action non-completed or progressing—imperfect, if it please—as clearly as *I was walking*.

To what period does the perfect belong? When was, is, or will be, a perfect time? That which is continuously receiving augment cannot be called perfect; for, if this were its condition, it would remain in its perfect state or follow the regular course of nature in such a case. The past must therefore be excluded from the category. But that cannot be called perfect which has been diminished and is still undergoing the process of contraction. The claims of the future must then be disallowed. As to the present, this seems something like a mathematical point, with one exception in favor of the point. The position of time present can never be determined. It is always in the future, yet ever with us; and, before we have had an opportunity to note its presence, it belongs to the past.

Perfect and *imperfect* are terms which do not convey any notion whatever of time. But what can be said respecting *pluperfect*? Something that is more than perfect! An endeavor to realize what this condition may be is out of the question. It is almost beyond the power of mortals to form any conception of what is perfect; but, when it comes to an endeavor to form an idea of that which is above and beyond perfection, we arrive at the confines of a domain into which angels themselves might fear to enter. Without, however, spending more time in the discussion of inappropriate terms, let us pass to the consideration of some which appear rational and easy of comprehension.

There are three divisions of time,—the *past*, the *present*, and the *future*. It is absolutely useless to try to dispense with these and substitute others when we are naming the tenses of our verbs. But, inasmuch as an action or a condition, while it is referred to one of these divisions of time, may be spoken of in relation to a second section contained within the first, we are compelled, when so referring the action or condition, to use a term which will name the subdivision necessary to convey an idea of this temporal relation. We may fix upon an instant, in either the past or the future, and refer our action to a period anterior to this instant. We then speak of its completion prior to the stated instant, and thereby obtain what is occasionally called a *past-perfect* or a *future-perfect* tense; the first component of the attributive term denoting time, and the second, circumstance.

There is now required a term which shall denote the completion of an action prior to the present moment, but which has taken place during a division of time of which the present is a portion, and is taken as one of the limiting instants; thus, in the assertion that *I have been to Europe this year*, the period of time to which the action is referred contains the present, but the action was completed prior to this instant. So with such a sentence as *Time hath not seen delay upon thy hurried path*. The time is not here specially mentioned, but it is clear that all time is embraced and that the present is consequently included. The same may be said of the statement that *many persons have been lost in the voyage across the Atlantic*, in which we speak of accomplished facts and refer them, in a general manner, to all the voyages which have been made between Europe and America. This embraces a period beginning with the first of these voyages and ending with the instant at which the statement is made. The present moment forms a portion of the period, and for this reason the tense has been called the *present-perfect*.

Some writers, having observed the unsatisfactory character of the terms in general use have styled *prior* those which have just been called *perfect*. This, however, creates an inevitable confusion of ideas. The *prior-present* must be the past; the *prior-future* may be either the present or the past; while to state to what portion of time the *prior-past* belongs is a difficult matter.

There are also objections to the use of the word *perfect* in this connection. To ascribe the attribute of perfection to an action because it is completed, is a matter of question—

able propriety. Some grammarians, having apparently perceived this, would give us a *completed-past*, a *completed-present*, and a *completed-future*. But this has also the objection that the term is employed without anything to show the nature of its application, and like the word *perfect* above, it appears to stand as an attribute of time.

Let us see if it be not possible to give to our tenses names to which no objection can be raised. It is clear that all our efforts are directed towards the naming of six tenses, of which two shall denote time past; two, time present; and two, time to come. A simple numerical division will satisfy all requirements. They can properly be called the first and second pasts, the first and second presents; and the first and second futures. In this classification we do not apply to time any term which has a reference to the condition or the action, and there are not any names which do not naturally apply to time. It is simply shown that, in our verbs, we have two tenses which contain the different forms by which an action or a condition may be referred to each of the three divisions into which time is distributed.—Extract from a course of lectures entitled "*A Few Words on English Grammar*."

AZ TO AMERICAN SPELING.

BY BRANDER MATTHEWS.

[Spelt in the style of this paper.]

The tenasiti with hwich some ov the newz-papertz ov London ar wont to defend the accepted British orthografi iz perhaps due rather to feeling than to thoht. Hwen we read hwat iz ritn in the *Times* and the *Saturday Review* and the *Athenurum*, sometimes in set artielz on the subject, and evn more oftn in casual and subsidiari slurz in the cours ov book-reviewz, we wonder at the vehemens ov the feeling displayd. If we did not kno that ancient abusez are oftn defended with more vigor and with louder shouts than inheritancez ov les doutful worth, we miht supoze that the prezent speling ov the English language was in a condition perfectli satisfactori alike to scolar and to student. Such, however, iz not the case. The leading filolojists ov Great Britain and ov the United States hav repeatedli denounst English speling az it now iz on both sidez of the Atlantic. Professor Max Müller at Oxford iz no les emphatic than Professor Whitney at Yale. There *iz now living* no scolar ov eni repute who eni *longger defendz the orthodox* and ordinari *orthografi ov the English language*.

The fact iz that a litl lerning iz quite az danjerus a thing now az it was in Pope's day. Thoze who ar volubli denounsing "American spelling" in the columz ov British jurnalz ar not students ov the histori ov English speech; they ar not scolarz in English; in so far az they kno enithing ov the language, they are but amatur filolojists. Az a wel-knon riter on speling-reform wons neatli remarkt, "The men who get their etimoloji by inspiration ar like the poor in that we hav them always with us." The uneducated reader may wonder perchans hwat the *g* iz doing in "sovereign"; the half-educated reader disernz in the *g* a connecting link between the English "sovereign" and the Latin *regno*; the wel educated reader knowz that there iz no filolojical conection hwatever between "*regno*" and "*sovereign*."

Far be it from me to apear az the defender ov the "American spelling" hwich the British jurnalz denouns. This "American spelling" iz les absurd than the British speling onli in so far az it haz varid therefrom. Evn in theze variationz there iz abundant absurditi. Wonse upon a time most wordz that now ar spelt with a final *c* had an aded *k*. Even now both British and American usaje retainz this *k* in *hammock*, altho both British and Americans hav dropt the needless letter from *havoc*; hwile the British retain the *k* at the end of *almanack* and the Americans have dropt it. Dr. Johnson was a reactionari in orthografi az in politics; and in his dictionari he wilfuli put a final *k* to wordz like *optick*, without being generali folowl by the *publick*—az he woud hav spelt it. Music was then *musick*, altho, even az late az Aubreyz time it had been *musique*. In our own day we ar witnessing the veri gradual substitution ov the lojical *technic* for the form orijinali imported from France *technique*. Az yet, so far az I hav obzervd, no atempts hav been made to modify the foren speling ov *clique* and *oblique*.

For eni elaborate and far reaching scheme ov speling-reform, seemngli, the time haz not yet come, altho, for all we kno, we may be aproaching it all unwittingli, az few ov us in 1860 foresaw the Emancipation Proclamation ov 1863. In the mean hwile, hwat iz needed on both sidez ov the Atlantic, in the United States az wel az in Great Britain, iz a conviction that the egzisting orthografi ov English iz not sacred, and that to tamper with it iz not high trezn.

Hwat iz needed iz the consiusnes that neither Samuel Johnson nor Noah Webster compiled hiz dictionari under direct inspiration. Hwat iz needed iz enithing hwich will break up the letharji ov satisfaction with the accepted orthografi.—*Harper's Magazine* for July.

QUERIZ.

7. Do you know to hwat extent Bishop Taylor iz yuzing a fonetic alfabet? He took with him to Africa some yearz ago a font ov the "Cincinnati." A. J. PIERCE.

[The editor thinks that Mr. Pixley, mentiond on p. 32 (July), iz to work under Bishop Taylor. Can eni won giv a more decided anser to the question?—EDITOR.]

8. Why dubl *g*, az in Ingglisch, etc?

A. J. PIERCE.

[Taking the digraf *ng* in such wordz to represent its yuzual sound, another *g* must be inserted for the *g*-sound that folowz it. I hav now, however, decided not to spel foneticali proper namez or adjectivz derived from them for the prezent, i. e. England, English.—EDITOR.]

[Fonetic Spelling Scheme No. 7.]

HOW SHOUD LONG VOWELZ BE REPRESENTED?

BY EVACÜSTES A. PHIPSON, Selly Oak, England.

If ordinari type iz yuzed for fonetic spelling, the long vowelz must be represented, if the sistem iz to be at all sientific and consistent, either by dubling, az propozed by Mr. Knoflach, or by yuzing diacritical marks, az recomended by Mr. McKinlay. The former plan iz not a new won. It was propozed by a Roman emperor soon after Christ, and actuali adopted to a serten extent. It iz now, however, litl yuzed in eni European langguaje exept Dutch. We should be, therefore, putting ourselvz in a quite peculiar pozition by reviving this sistem, hwich haz also the disadvantage ov taking up greater spase than the other. The advantajez ov the latter plan ar that long and short marks onli ar required, and theze onli hwen there iz danjer ov confusion, but above all that the orthografi ov our langguaje iz asimilated to that ov all otherz yuzing the Roman alfabet, including Latin itself, hwich wil therefore be an imens help to thoze studiing foren tonguez. Nor iz it by eni meanz un-English. In the words *father*, *prey*, *ravine*, *roll*, *rule*, the five prinsipal long vowelz hav egzactli the same

pronunsiation az in Latin and the modern European langguaje. Not onli this but the lerned sosietiz hav yunanimusli agreed to adopt this transliteration for oriental and other langguaje not yuzing the Roman character, az being at wonse the simplest and most sientific. Sins the English containz so meni more vowel soundz than other langguaje, it iz nesesari to invent some special types, but theze shoud be redused az much az posibl, and the long and short soundz distinguisht by diacritical marks, az in the case ov the ordinari vowelz. The folowing, therefore, seemz to me the most corect, practical, and lojical schedule:

az in	az in
ä man, have	ai aisle, eye
a pass, last	au Faust, mouse
ā father, laugh	oi noise, boy
ē pen, head	iu nuisance, new
e there, fair	c Chicago, hush
ē prey, break	j Janeiro, azure
i pin, kick	tc church
i ravine, sphere	dj judge
ō not, cough	q singing
ō note, loaf	th thin
o lord, fall	dh thine
ū full, put	x loch, khan
ū rule, pool	
q but, son *	
q learn, turn.	

It wil nōt olwēz bī nēsēsāri tū rait dhī distiguicīq marks, bāt onlī hwēn dher ōmīcōn wūd koz kōnfiujōn, āz fōr instāns in dhī wārdz pīk, pīk; nōt nōt; ōn, ōn; lō, lō; pūl, pūl; tū, tū; cīp, cīp; ēts., ānd īvn dhēn dhī vauēlz ār prīziūmd tū bī cort īf nōt mārkt lōq. Ov kors for veri akiuret raitīq dhē cud olwez bi givn. It wil bi obzērvd dhat in dhis sistem onli tu niu karakterz hav tu bi ad d, dhoz for *th* and *dh*; dhi ēdher niu sain, e, iz onli *e* rivērst. Indid dhi loq saund ov dhis me bi rēndērd bai *e* widhaut mētc harm, az "werd, tern," dho not so korekt.

—Mr. Adlai E. Stevenson pronounces his given name *Ad'lee*.

—Payments ov subscriptionz wer reseivd in July from

B. F. Burnham E. J. Taylor
F. J. Child + N. J. Werner
Asa Horr Miss E. A. Youmans.
E. M. Stearns

The hole number now in forse iz only 169, nearli az meni having run out last month az came in.

*[Mr. Phipson puts the diacritics over the turned e's, and insted ov *th* and *dh* he yusez new characters formed by coalescing the old letters.—EDITOR.]

HOW MENI VOWELZ AND DIPHTHONGZ ?

(Concluded.)

My Dear Mr. Fernald:

In the articl entitld "How meni Vowelz and Diphthongz," on page 27 ov OUR LANGUAGE for July, you speak ov the Anglo-American fonetic scheme az won that "refrainz from yuzing ascanted letterz." This statement iz tru ov the A. A. plan hwen it it was first publisht by me in 1875, and also hwen agreed on with Mr. E. Jones, at the formation ov the S. R. A. in 1876. But objectionz to the yuse ov so meni digrafs appearing—particularli to the lengthening ov such wordz az "labor, being, tiger, pony, dubious,"—hwich had to be speld, "laebor, beeing, tieger, poeny, duebious,"—cauzd us veri soon to employ ascanted letterz for the long vowelz, and in the *Spelling Reformer* hwich I publisht holi with Anglo-American speling throu 1878, diacritic marks wer yuzed. In OUR LANGUAGE for August 1891, "Phonetic Spelling, Scheme No. 4," was a description ov a pamphlet issued by W. M. Griswold ov Cambridge, Mass., the hole articl being spelt in Anglo-American; to that I refer you.

The distinctiv feature ov Anglo-American speling iz *not* its yuse ov digrafs, but, az stated in the paper above mentiond, the prinsipl "that each sound ov the English language shal be represented by the singgl letter or digraf that most frequentli re-rezents that sound in comon orthografi."

In the 70's speling-reformerz wer far more sanguin ov a speedi revision ov orthografi than they ar in the 90's. We then thoht that past failurez had arizn prinsipali from 'the od shapen ov the new letterz in the strictli won-letter fonetic alfabetz, hwich made the print look "so queer." We imajind that if simpl fonetic speling on a plan without new letterz was adopted—a speling that could be set up in the most poorli furnisht printing ofis—oposition to the reform woud sease, and orthografi be straitnd out in a decade. Cuntri printing ofisez ar not yuzuali furnisht with ascanted letterz; hense the construction ov Alexander John Ellis's "Glossic," the primitiv vowel-digrafic Anglo-American, and kindred schemez by E. Jones, Stephen Pearl Andrews, and otherz. But we reckond without our host. The public did not kno the meaning ov the word fonetic. The idea ov speling by sound had to be implanted in teacherz' mindz and in the rizing generation. The ajitation on revized speling haz, evn yet, simpli awakend a *dezi*re in peopl to kno hwat it iz all about. Leigh's Pronouncing Orthography in the

scools ov Boston and St. Louis, N. A. Calkins' "Ear and Voice Training," and other books teaching fonetic dril, hav done good work. Educated peopl ar fast coming to apreциate the purposez and need ov the reform. We can now begin to bild on a foundation that had not bin laid twenti or evn ten yearz ago, and hwich iz evn yet far from complete. Therefore it iz that we shoud continue to urje the yuse ov fonetic primerz and readerz, az an introduction to the ordinari print.

With regard to the vowel in "care, hairy," it shoud hav a plase in the A. A. alfabet, and wil be represented in my forthcoming Pronouncing Primer.

ELIZA B. BURNZ.

The studi ov fonetic schemez made for the preseding articl in this seriz haz shown me that it iz safe to include *o* in "nor" among the vowel soundz that shoud be distingguisht in fonetic speling. This makes a total ov sixteen, or twelv vowelz and four diphthongz, hwich we all agree must hav plasez in the ideal alfabet. The extent ov our agreement having been asertaind, this seriz ov articlz may now come to a cloze. There remain five vowelz concerning hwich we disagree, and the editor propozez to discuss theze further under the title ov The Five Debatabl Vowelz.

—The editor haz been especiali fortunate in getting valuabl material for this number. The articl begining on the first page iz won ov four instalments ov an admirabl paper that woud not be out of plase in our best literari magazinez. Sinse it apeard in Canada it haz been revized by the author for OUR LANGUAGE. Dr. John Storer Cobb contributes a critisizm on our namez for the tensez of verbz, hwich dezervz careful consideration. The extract from the Harper articl ov Brander Matthews wil be eagerli devoured. Such wordz from such a sourse may wel giv curaje to speling-reformerz.

—The *Century Magazine* for July containz an articl teling "What the Government is doing for the Farmer," by A. W. Harris, in hwich "stearin," "olein," "palmitin," "oleomargin," and the adjective "saccharin" ar speld without final *e*.

—The University of Lyon haz adopted for its Bulletin and its Annals the simplified speling advocated by the *Revue de Philologie Française* and the Société de Réforme Orthographique.—*Le Maître Phonétique*.

Our Language.

DEVOTED TO

PRESERVING, EXTENDING, AND IMPROVING THE ENGLISH SPEECH.

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The prezant speling ov this paper iz not intended to be final, for it includez formz ov some wordz that need to be further modified. It represents the farthest staj ov agreement that speling reformerz hav reacht, and iz based on the two folowing rulez:—

1. SILENT LETTERZ. Drop all silent letterz.

2. TWENTI SOUNDZ. Let the sound most comonli represented by each ov the twenti folowing letterz be always so represented:—*a* (short), *b*, *d*, *e* (short), *f*, *g*, *h*, *i* (short), *j*, *l*, *m*, *n*, *p*, *r*, *s*, *t*, *v*, *w*, *y* (consonant), *z*.

N. B.—Exeptionz may be made hwere the operation ov either rule woud disguise the pronunsiation ov a word. Proper namez ar also exeptionz.

All articlz and letterz on speling-reform ar speld in the style ov the paper exept those that ar inserted az illustrationz ov particular fonetic schemez.

A CHANCE FOR A NOBLE FILANTHROPY.

It miht wel be maintaind that public wisdom and private generosity hav alrede provided abundant facilitis for education in this cuntry, nevertheles it is a fact that the American boy or girl can become educated only with great difficulty. The number of persons born on our soil who can not read and rite at all, or not enuf to be of practical benefit, and the number of those of foren birth who cannot read and rite English after being in this cuntry for years suficiently atests this. Children and illiterates in English-speaking cuntris ar at a great disadvantage as compared with those in many other lands, for lerning to read the English language has been calld "the most difficult of human

atainments." The reasn why it is so difficult is that the speling of our language is extremely iregular. For instance, *a* has one sound in "have," another in "gave," a third in "call," a fourth in "calm," a fifth in "what," and none at all in "head." The consonants ar not so variable as the vowels, but we hav *g* hard in "gill" (of a fish), soft in "gill" (a measure), and silent in "gnat;" the sound of *f* represented sometimes by *ph* or *v*; and that of *k* by *c*, *ch*, or *q*. Examples miht be multiplied to a tiresome extent. The effects of these irregularities ar, first, to increas unreasonably the time required for lerning to read and, second, to deform the lerner's intelect. Careful investigations made some years ago by J. H. Gladstone, F. R. S., Member of the School Board for London, led him to the conclusion that, "if English orthograpy represented English pronunciation as closely as the Italian does, at least half the time and expense of teaching to read and spel woud be saved. This may be taken as 1,200 hours in a lifetime, and as more than half a million of money [pounds] *per annum* for England and Wales alone." In the Report for 1888-'89 of W. T. Harris, LL. D., U. S. Commissioner of Education, is this statement: "The amount of time a child spends in lerning the orthograpy of the English language is out of all proportion to that givn to the other studis, tho it is necessary; and the energy wasted an aquirng something which does not aid the child intelectually is deplorable. If by general consent of Congress, pres, and scool, the English orthograpy wer simplified to the degre it has been done in Germany it woud be a saving of an entire year to every scool child in this cuntry."

The above-mentioned difficultis in lerning to read can not be removed so long as our mother-tung retains its present dres, but they can be postponed to a later stage of the proces and thus deprived of much of their power for harm. This may be done by using a primer in which all words ar *re-speld* fonetically, as they ar to show their pronunciation in a dictionary. Such a primer shud be folowd by a reading-book in ordinary speling. It has been proved time and again that a child or forener can lern to read English fonetic print and then change to the ordinary print in much les time than is required to lern to read the ordinary style alone—and with a much better effect on the mental powers. The use of Isaac Pitman's fonetic print in England, the "Cincinnati alfabet" in the United States, and of both of these in mision work furnishes plenty of evidence to support this statement. Within the past year several instances of the succes of the method in the hands of Prof. Knoflach, of New York, hav been reported in OUR LANGUAGE. This gentlman, using a fonetic primer of his own as a stepping-stone, has taut American children and French, German, Polish, and Chinese young men to read the whole of an ordinary primer in from thre to six weeks.

If the re-speling method is so exelent, it may be askt, why is it not more widely used? Because teachers and parents must be got out of a very old and deep rut before they wil allow children to lern in this way. The method needs to be made better known; it must be explaind and re-explaind; teachers must be instructed in its use; it must be introduced into normal scools; scool-boards must be persuaded to giv it a trial; political influences must be overcome in some places, and the interests of the publishers of scool-books in others; furthermore, a vigoros agitation must be kept up on a large scale in order to sustain the curage of the first converts until their companions become numerous. Such work requires money. Any welthy person who is looking for a worthy object to which to devote a portion of his or her means can not do better than to become the patron of the logical mode of teaching reading. No educational benefaction coud be more grand or far-reaching. A fund formed for this purpose woud be more than a charity, it woud be a filanthropy. It woud not only save time and labor for the children of the poor, but it woud also protect both rich and poor children *from acquiring pervers habits of thoht. Unlike the founding of a colege its benefits woud not be confined to a few, but miht be*

extended to all who lern the English language. It woud thus be unique among all the benefactions that human generosity has ever devised.

In order to keep within reasonabl limits the present articl must leave many questions about this project unanserd. The editor of this paper, however, wil gladly furnish all required information to anyone who becomes interested in the matter. And in closing he can not forbear a word of caution. Any money designed for this cause woud best be aplyed to it during the life-time of the giver. It is becoming very uncertain that when money is bequeatht for a public object the courts wil allow the testator's wishes to be carid out. Furthermore, the patron of such a cause miht reasonably allow himself the plesure of actualy seeing the good that he is permitted to efect.

THE JENIUS OV ENGLISH SPELING.

BY MRS. ELIZA B. BURNZ.

The English langguaje haz a peculiar sistem ov denoting elementari vowel soundz, hwich pozesez a sertain amount ov simetri and seemz to be grounded in the veri nature ov the langguaje. Unlike eni other nation, the English haz considered the five vowel leterz, reseivd from the Romanz, first and foremost az representationz ov sertain long soundz herd in the wordz *ale, me, I, go, mute*.

Each ov theze five vowel leterz denotes also a second or short sound, az in the wordz *at, eg, in, on up*, hwich, tho reali short, doez not stand in eni natural relation to its coresponding long sound; that iz, it doez not differ from it mereli in quantiti or length, like a half-note in muzic from a full note. The relation iz rather an artificial or conventional won, tho there seemz to be some law by hwich, on account ov a silabl being aded to a word and the ascen chanjing the long vowel iz oftn transmuted into the short, az "defāme, defāmation"; "impēde, impēdiment"; "divide, dividend"; "asūme, asūmption."

Another peculiariti ov the English vowel leterz iz that, strictli, but won ov them haz for its long or first power a pure and simpl sound. The long *i* and *u* ar universali admitted to be diphthongz, and orthoepists hav clearli shown that evn *o* and *a* ar not, strictli speaking, simpl vowelz, but, hwen pronounst deliberateli, terminate in a second sound hwich Webster aptli callz the vanish (Webster's International Dictionary, Sec. 18). Everi person who haz givn attention to English pronunsiation, or who haz taut foreinerz, knowz that this iz won ov the distinguishing

nisetiz ov our vocal sistem, sometimez not appreciated, often not ataind, by foreinerz. The French "dé" differz apreciablely from our "day," and the word "roze" pronounst by a Frenchman or a German iz not the same az hwen pronounst by an Englishman. Hens we must reckn among the peculiaritiz ov our vowel sistem the fact that ov our five prinsipl or name-vowelz but won iz reali a simpl sound. In forming a revized orthografi it wil be advizabl to recognize theze peculiaritiz ov the English vowel sistem, and make English valuez the basis ov the new speling, insted ov copying after forein langguajez, hwich, hwile similar to each other in the valuez they giv the vowel leterz, shoud not be acsepted az a foundation for our orthografi, on account ov their great diverjens from English usaje in respect to vowel valuez.

[The Editor haz held back the above artiel for several months wishing to find out how meni vowelz there ar to be represented before discussing wayz ov reprezenting them. It haz been shown that the total number ov vowelz and diphthongz must be not les than 16 nor more than 21, and there it may be left hwile the viewz ov reformerz on some other points ar broht out. The question ov English or Continental valuez for the vowel leterz iz a fundamental won and the Editor hopes that the arguments on both sides will be broht out az fuli az they wer in the case ov "C versus K." He iz especiali anxius to reseiv the viewz ov the readerz ov OUR LANGUAGE during the prezent month, for in the next number ov this paper he wil adopt practicali *full fonetic speling*, that is to say, az nearli fonetic az iz posibl without new leterz, and this wil involv a chois between the two sets ov valuez for the vowelz. This chois wil be governd by the weicht ov argument that can be broht out on the two sidez. Hwich shal it be, English or Continental?—EDITOR.]

—An International Commission for the Reform of Chemical Nomenclature, in which English, French, and German chemists were represented, sat at Geneva on the 19th to 22nd April, 1892. This body resolved "that in addition to the usual name, each organic compound shall have an official name assigned to it, enabling it to be found under a distinct heading in tables and dictionaries." A series of such official names was adopted for compounds of known constitution, and the co-operation of authors and the editors of chemical journals is invited in bringing them into use. Truly, the reform of language is in the air!

LETTERZ FOR THE DIPHTHONGZ.

The two Greek words from hwich "diphthong" iz derived mean respectivli "twise" and "voise." A diphthong iz "a coalition or union of two vowel sounds pronounced in one syllable" (Webster), hense it woud seem most proper to reprezent a diphthong by two leterz in fonetic speling. Some reformerz, especiali thoz that insist most strongli on the prinsipl ov "a sign for a sound," reprezent the diphthongz by singgl leterz. They do not seem to see that, just az sureli az won and won ar two, this veri prinsipl requirez *two signz for two soundz*. The chief objectionz to singgl signz for the diphthongz ar:

(1) It iz not speling, but abbreviation or silabic riting. The Chinese alfabet, hwich iz the worst in the world, iz made up holi ov signz for combinationz ov soundz. A tru fonetic alfabet iz made on a diferent prinsipl—that ov reprezenting singgl soundz by singgl signz and combinationz ov soundz by combinationz ov signz. There shoud be no mixing ov the two planz in the improved English alfabet.

(2) It woud prevent children from lerning the nature ov diphthongz redili. Seeing them represented in the same way az simpl vowelz ar, yung lernerz woud naturali infer that they wer ov the same nature. We ar trying to get rid ov the contradiction ov reazn that now egzist in English speling and sureli oht not to introduce new wonz.

(3) It woud increas the number ov leterz whoze power must be lernd, and thereby ad somewhat to the task ov lerning to read and rite English.

(4) It woud increas the number ov new boxez in the printer's case, and consequentli cauz more chanjez in rearanjing the case for the reformd alfabet.

(5) It woud increas the number ov new leterz, and each new letter meanz won more addition to the alredi too meni points ov disagreement among reformerz.

Fortunateli onli a few fonetic schemez hav special leterz for diphthongz, and ov theze the onli wel knon won iz Longley's "Cincinnati" alfabet. Publisherz who ar now yuzing the Longley alfabet woud be wize to reject this feature ov it. They woud thereby bring themselvz into agreement with the great majoriti ov reformerz on this question, and woud lessn the number of sorts ov type that they must be supplid with and their compozitorz must handl.

Diphthongz shoud be represented by combinationz ov the leterz that stand for the simpl vowelz compozing them.

A SEVN WEEKS PUPIL.

Peopl who wer not present at the exhibition givn by Professor Knoflach in the Union Scool Hous on Monday afternoon can not possibli realize the full extent ov hwat he achievz by hiz new method ov teaching children to read.

Az mentiond heretofore in thes columz, the pupil was litl Harold Corwin, the five-and-a-half-year-old son ov Mr. W. G. Corwin, ov Southampton, a child that did not kno won letter from the other sev'n weeks ago, the first lesn having been givn on the 11th day ov July; and yet, on Monday last, in the prezens ov a larje and enthuziastic audiens, the boy was not onli abl to read with the greatest fluensi and without the slihtest hesitation eni part of Swinton's Primer, script az wel az print, but to go throu a seriz ov exersizez on the blackboard that wer fairli staggering. He first red off a larje number ov wordz and analyzed them into their elementari soundz; then he speld them in the old way by giving the namez ov the letterz; after that hiz teacher put him throu a number ov veri interesting exersizez in word-bilding, hwich displayd on the part ov the child a remarkabl familiariti with signz and soundz; then the boy expland the import ov the diacritical marks and ilustrated their yuse by examplz; and, last, he red off a number of sentensez az fast az they wer put on the board, and gave not onli the namez but the meaning ov all the punctuation marks.

Hwat imprest us most in all this astonishing performans was the redines ov the child and hiz perfect control ov hiz own powerz. He evidentli enjoyd the ocasion, and won could see that he alwayz new hwat he was about. There waz no hesitation, no inquiring look at the teacher, no gessing; and there had obviusli been no lerning by rote and no cramming. Moreover, we hav the asurans ov the child's parents that hiz powerz wer not in the least overtaxt, and that he alwayz lookt upon hiz lesnz az a plezure rather than az a task.—From the Southampton [Long Island] *Sea-Side Times*.

—*The Independent* for August 4th containd a simpozium on "Educational Problems," the first articl in hwich was by Prof. F. A. March, on "The Study of English," and was printed in "Philological" speling. In the same number was a vigorus editorial of a colum in length, heded "An Unnecessary Hindrance to Education," in hwich the *comon English speling* was strongli condemd and the co-operation ov a hundred leading

American periodicalz was calld for to put amended speling into practical yuse.

—Mr. C. T. Billings, ov Hyde, near Manchester, England, rites to Mr. Isaac Pitman: "I am trying the experiment of teaching three Danish gentlemen to read English by means of your Phonetic Readers. I am surprised to find how quickly they have been able to master the Second Reader. They are delighted with their progress."

—*The Popular Science Monthly* for September containz an articl ov six pajez on "Changes in Chemical and Geographical Words," by the editor of this paper. In the clozing paragrafs the simplification ov medical termz and the jeneral reform ov English speling ar advocated.

—Renewalz ov subscriptionz were reseivd last month from

A. L. Bancroft H. L. Wayland +
F. G. Cook.

The whole number iz now 167.

—With the August number the speling-reform department in *The Phonographic World*, hwich haz been most ably conducted by Mrs. Burnz, ceasez to be a distinct feature ov the magazine. It iz safe to say, however, that the *World* wil not ceas to giv aid to the reform.

—A paper on "Speling Reform—Fonetik Speling," red by Mrs. Martha S. Collings before the sosieti Hypatia, at Wichita, Kas., haz been publisht az a pamflet. It iz a clear and comprehensiv argument for reformnd speling, wel fortified by sitationz ov authoritiz, and containing anserz to the stock objectionz. Apended to the esay iz a tabl ov the American Fonetik Alfabet, and several pajez ov selectionz printed in it. A page from Chaucer givz oportuniti for comparison with hiz speling.

NEW BOOKS ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

[From *The Publishers' Weekly* (New York) and *The Publishers' Circular* (London) for the past month.]

Burnz, Eliza B. *The Step-by-Step Primer*. 94 pp., il., S. New York, bds., 25 cts.

Keating, J. M., M. D., and others. *New Pronouncing Dictionary of Medicine*. 812 p., O. Phila., cl. net \$5; shp. \$6.

Favors the English pronunciation of medical terms.

Sargent, Epes. *A Pronouncing Spelling-book*. New edn., 166 p., D. Balto., bds. 15 c.

AMERICAN SPEECH AND STANDARD ENGLISH.

BY FRED. H. SYKES, M. A.

(Continued.)

This brief reference to the Yankee dialect might, if we had time, be supplemented by references to the peculiarities of central New York, following the admirable paper of Mr. Oliver Emerson in the *Dialect Notes** of the American Dialect Society, or to the more marked dialect of the Tennessee mountains, of which Miss Murfree has made such artistic use in her various novels,† to the provincialisms of the Southern Atlantic States, following the scholarly papers of Professor Sylvester Primer‡ and Professor C. F. Smith,§ to the language of the West, as represented especially in the works of Bret Harte, and to Negro-English, which has been treated with scientific accuracy by Mr. J. A. Harrison in *Anglia*.

What these various dialects teach us, with the sole exception, perhaps, of Negro-English, is that the point of view from which we must look at the making of American speech is not primarily as a Standard English speech brought to America and corrupted to a greater or less extent in various quarters, but rather in its earlier stages as a speech marked by various dialectic peculiarities, which in the course of time have lost prestige through the growth of a new standard speech in America. "When we hear a common countryman or a mountaineer," writes Professor Smith, "use a word that is not familiar to us, we may be sure that in most cases it is not a new word, but belongs to the dialect of one or two hundred years ago. Someone, writing recently of a trip to some Southern mountains, said the dialect impressed him as if he had been suddenly transferred to Chaucer's time. Even the negroisms are rarely anything but survivals, or oftener corruptions, of old usage;|| and indeed they are responsible for comparatively few of these corruptions, having simply preserved, not made them." Now the question arises, why, with these strongly marked local dialects, do we have what we may call our American Speech? The answer is plain. The language of Bird o' Freedom Sawin, although once the speech of the mass of New Englanders, was never

spoken by any New Englander of birth and education—or rather the well educated New Englander had few traces of the local speech of the mass of his neighbors. We are all aware, moreover, that the stream of literature when once set flowing in America, was fed by the purest springs of classical English,—a crystalline stream—as Longfellow and Hawthorne show us—worthy of its source. The Virginian of birth might be forced to spend most of his life amongst negroes, yet he had a gentleman's instinct for books. "You will find," writes W. H. Page, in the *Atlantic* for May, 1881, "old gentlemen who know Shakespeare and Milton, but not one in a thousand knows anything of Longfellow and Tennyson. Not unfrequently, much to your surprise, you may learn that one of these has read Byron and Burns annually for the last ten years, and he is perfectly familiar with every character in Scott. When he writes or makes a speech, he leaves his inert conversational tone entirely, and employs a diction and manner that have an antique Addisonian dignity and profusion." The growth of an educated class, the increase in wealth, the extension of a system of common schools, well-furnished with spelling books and dictionaries, aided by the influence of English literature among people who are insatiable readers, the social advantages of cultured speech; all these were potent factors in suppressing, except in the remotest districts, the vestiges of provincialism, and in establishing a more or less uniform English speech throughout America—a speech which, it is true, has its ear-marks, but which, in foundation and in detail, is *practically one with Standard English*.

This last statement, I fear, needs some modification. It is only in a loose sense that we may be said to have a standard speech in America. Let me explain my meaning by illustration. Most educated Canadians utter such words as "port," "farther," "door," with a strong consonantal *r*; most educated people of the Eastern and Southern States partially or wholly vocalize these *r*'s—*po't, fa'thə, dōə*, (*ə* is Sweet's sign of vocalized final *r*.) In Georgia and Virginia it disappears entirely; "close the door," becomes "close the do." (pronounce as in "dough"). Again, Canadians and educated New Englanders have the diphthong of Standard English in such words as *now, how, town*. Yet every Southerner from Baltimore to Austin, turns it into a diphthong *æow*—*næow, hæow, tæown*. Again, a Canadian recognizes as a characteristic—though fortunately not a universal characteristic—of

* Vol. iii.

† Down the Ravine, In the Tennessee Mountains, Prophet of the Great Smoky Mountain, etc.

‡ American Journal of Philology, Vol. viii.

§ Transactions of the American Philological Association, vol. xiv., 1883. Vol. vii., 1884.

|| I cite in illustration the word "banjo," which is currently regarded as a negrolism. It is merely a corruption and retention of the old word "bandore," which the Elizabethan dramatist, Middleton, for instance, employs.

United States speech the nasalization of its vowels, from which his own speech is tolerably free; while a Bostonian winces when he hears the broad *aa* of his "daance," "paalm," "caalm," turned almost wherever he visits into the flat—*dænce*, *pæm*, *cæm*. The Virginian is inclined to look upon the pure vowel "card," "garden," etc., as a wretched northern affectation, as compared with his *kya'd*, *gya'den*.* In the Gulf States you may "carry" a young lady to church, with perfect propriety and mutual pleasure, though neither she nor *les convenances* would permit you to "tote" her there. In the North we may greet a friend with "good afternoon," in the South we come into a land where it is never afternoon, but "good evening." In the West we know the usual nominative of address is "stranger," while in Kentucky "Colonel" is an established synonym of "Mister." In the South we cross a "branch" or a "fresh" rather than a stream or "brook"; for making bread we use "east" rather than "yeast." The day is "pretty" or "shabby" according as the weather is "fine" or "disagreeable." In the speech of even a well-educated Georgian it is often only the context that enables you to distinguish "chair," "tear," from "cheer," "tear" (*lacryma*), for he sounds the vowels alike. In the West, you "allow" that Mr. Smith has a fine horse; you may "hang out" rather than live; ("hang out" would seem a better Western synonym for "to die suddenly"); you are "clever" when you are "good-natured"; Westerners use "drive," "beef," "broncho," "fandango," "corral," and many other words in a way that perplexes the Easterner. Even Canada is peculiar with its "concessions," "habitants," "drams" (sections of raft), "slide" (lumber-slide), "carrying places," or "portages." In the little town of Gananoque, Ont., I noted in a chance visit at least two words that no dictionary records, "slinker," or "a slinky pike," (young pike), and "snappers," (the ripples on the surface of a stream as it passes over rocks in shallow water). In short, American speech is not a unit either in pronunciation or vocabulary. A group of English students gathered at Oxford would have,—allowing for the personal factor,—a practical identity of speech; a group of American students gathered at Johns Hopkins have differences that warrant one in asking, as regards such and such a member if he ever speaks English.

*It may be said *en passant* that this breaking of a after a palatal was once fashionable in England (v. Sheridan's Dictionary). It is likewise interesting as an illustration of the first step by which we explain in Romance Philology the change of the Latin *cartam* into the French *charte*.

Yet while this is true, it is also true that the speech of the mass of Americans is more nearly a unit than that of the mass of inhabitants of the British Isles; we may suffer in comparison with the large class of educated Englishmen who speak Standard English, but we gain infinitely compared with the average Englishman, to say nothing of peasants of Cumberland or Yorkshire, of Aberdeen or Tipperary. For the dialects of Great Britain, America has been a great purifying furnace. "One county in England," writes Froude, "differs from another county. Devon has one voice and manner. The Devonshire man and the Yorkshire man can scarcely understand each other when they are eager and fall into dialect."† Now in America—we have instances before our eyes every day—the sons of these men of Devon or Yorkshire emigrated hither speak a language that is precisely alike, and precisely the language of men of American parentage, and not only the sons of Englishmen, but the sons of Germans, Swedes, Italians and the scores of other nationalities that have sought homes on these shores. In short, America is a crucible in which the speech of Europeans undergoes rapid transformation and improvement.

The reasons for such divergences in American speech from Standard English are not far to seek. Life in America was under conditions widely different from those in the mother-land. Physical conditions were different, indigenous animal and vegetable life were different. The colonists and their successors had to create forms of government, methods of administration, of industrial activity, of social life, of which the older land was ignorant. Rapidly they adjusted and extended their speech to meet these new conditions. They invested old words with new meanings, they made new combinations of old words to express new ideas, they seized the dialect words from the remote corners of the land and spread them across the continent, and with amazing fecundity of phrase they created a host of new words which tax the energy of the dictionary-makers to enumerate and account for.

They found a land of woods—or "bush"—and we have "clearing," "bushwhacker," "backwoods," "corduroy roads," "dug-outs"; with the allotment of land, came the "land-office," "land-patent," "quarter section," "squatter," "claim-jumper." They took their pleasure industriously in "raising-bees," "spelling-bees," "paring-bees." They grew maize, which they called "corn," and "corn-

† "Oceana," p. 163.

shucking," "corn-husking," were carried on with the aid of "corn-cake," "corn-dodgers," and even "corn-juice." They got themselves a government—a "congress," to which went "senators," and "congressmen"; political "campaigns" were accompanied by "stump" speeches, "caucuses," "bolting," "bull-dozing," "ballot-stuffing," and "gerrymandering." They built railways, calling them "railroads," had "conductors" rather than "guards," "cars" rather than "carriages," "freight-trains" rather than "goods-trains," "baggage-cars" rather than "luggage-vans," "depots" instead of "stations."

From the Spaniards to the South and West, they appropriated the words "corral," "cañon," "broncho," "adobie" (sun-dried brick), "barbecue," and "bagasse" (remains of pressed sugar cane).

They were willing to use the "voyageurs" of their French neighbors to the North and South, to smoke their "calumet," to "charivari," disagreeable neighbors or "Winter married unto May," or to walk on the "banquettes" of New Orleans, and watch the "crevasse" in the "levee" of the Father of Waters.* They were willing to eat the "cold-slaw" (kool slaw) and "crullers" of their Dutch and German neighbors and to adopt their "stoop," "bake-oven," "boss," and "spook."—From *The Educational Journal*, Toronto.

* New Orleans. "This charming town would require a special dictionary of its own for its picturesque Creolisms of every species—cookery, customs, locality."—*Critic*, April 2, 1892.

[To be continued.]

First Report of the United States Board on Geographic Names. 1890-91. 52nd Congress, H. R.: Washington. 56 pp. O.

This report containz a sketch ov the history and organization ov the Board, a statement ov the prinsiplz that hav been adopted to govern its action, and an account ov its first year's work. During the year more than 2,000 questionz hav been submitted to the Board and desisionz hav been renderd in nearli all ov these casez. Among them wer several hundred namez in Alaska, hwich calld attention to the great confusion in geografic namez egzisting in that teritory, and the Board in consequens haz undertaken a complete revision ov Alaskan geografical nomenclature. Some 46 pajez ov the book ar occupied by a list ov desisionz made during the year, which includez the namez ov all the countiez in the United States. These desisionz ar now the authoriti for the charts

ov the Coast and Geodetic Survey, and thoz ov the Hydrographic Office, the maps ov the Geological Survey and ov the General Land Office, the lists ov the Post Office Department, and for all documents printed at the Government Printing Office.

The Board finds that there iz distinctli traseabl a development ov jeografic nomenclature, hwich iz on the hole proseedng in a beneficial direction. Its tendensi iz toward the discarding ov objectionabl namez and the adoption ov pleazing wonz, and toward the simplification and abbreviation ov namez, particularli az shown in the dropping ov silent letterz. The Board, recognizing this cours ov development, propozez to gide it, and evn to forestall it, az far az its future cours may be foreseen. The desisionz ov the Board, tho binding onli on government officialz, hav been jenerali acsepted by American jeografers, educatorz, publisherz ov atlasez and jeografical text-books, and newzpapez. In view ov the great interest manifested in the work ov this Board, its request that Congress make special provision for printing its desisionz oht to be granted.

The Story of the Childhood and Passion of the Lord Jesus the Savior. By J. M. Klüh. Printed with an alfabet ov 45 letterz. The author, 2,112 La Salle St., Chicago. 70 pp., S. Prise 35 cents.

Some ov the most activ work for speling reform iz being done by adopted sitizenz ov this cuntri. They lern a langguaje in childhood that iz speld nearli foneticali and hwen they come to lern English they see its bewildering contradictionz more plainli than meni ov us who ar to the manner born. Unfortunateli the zeal ov such persnz sometimez leadz them to injure the cauz that they hope to benefit. They publish fonetic alfabetz for English before they have masterd the soundz ov the langguaje, and the enemiz ov speling-reform at wons point to the plasez hwere they hav stumbl'd, and cry out, "See hwat the speling reformerz want to bring us to!" Longger acquaintans with English, or careful studi ov a standard dictionari woud hav told Mr. Klüh that there iz no diferens between the *a* in "all and the *o* in "nor," and that "thin" and "doth," ar not egzamples ov the *th* in "the" and "their." Further studi ov the problem ov English speling-reform woud have shown him that he coud hav made a better choiz for some ov hiz new letterz—in fact, haz shown him this sinse hiz book was printed, for in the copi sent to this paper several chanjez ar markt in the list ov ~~words~~.

characterz. He extendz the English alfabet with new letters, inverted letterz, and figurez, thus produsing a mixture ov signz that woud be veri objectionabl in the eyez ov printerz. In several casez hiz new characterz ar intended to be the same az thozе yuzed for the same soundz in the alfabetz ov other langguajez—Greek, Russian, Arabic, etc., and it must be sed that there iz much better reazn for adopting such letterz than for acsepting some that our alfabet-makerz evolv from their inner consciousness.

Ecoez ov C versus K.—I coud almost shed tearz for this poor *c* (cee). There ar several reaznz for prefering *c* to *k*. [See *Phonetic Ticher*, Vol. 2, p. 14, and *Spelling*, Vol. 1, p. 106.] It iz from the Latin, iz yuzed by most European nationz, there ar meni timez az meni *c*'z az *k*'z in the vocabulari, it doez not interfere with the leterz in the line above, iz not mistakn for *h*, can be made in les than half the time that it takes to make *k*, and had it not been *corrupted* to *s* it wud sweep *k* overboard. *C* should be named *cee*.

L. LYON.

I much prefer *k* to *c*. A. J. PIERCE.

[It waz shown in O. L. for Nov. 1891, that reformerz ar all but yunanimus in prefering *k* to *c*. The editor haz not yet made hiz speling konform to this verdikt az he was angkshus to gard agenst moving too hastili. Now, however, he iz konvinst that he woud not be akting for the tru interests ov the reform if he delayd longer. Akordingli, in the new speling to be introdused nekt month *k* will be yuzed to the eksklusion ov *c*, *q*, and *x*.—EDITOR.]

—With its July number *The Leader* returnz to "Five Rule speling." This iz a sufficientli advanst stand for eni publisher to take at present, unles he iz wiling to make a martyr ov himself.

—The prose of the present generation is quite as good in America as in England. Indeed, we are inclined to believe that it is better. In our experience, the prose now being written on the other side of the Atlantic is often more scholarly, and has a greater sense of distinction and of force and clearness, than on this. The chances are that an ordinary American work of criticism, or a book dealing with politics, law, science, or history, will be less open to objection on the score of style, than one dealing with similar subjects published in England. A certain *sloveliness and inelegance* often noticeable in the work of English writers is seldom to be

found among our kinsmen. Their serious prose, without being stilted or pompous, has the careful, restrained air we note in the literature of the eighteenth century.—*The Spectator*.

—A work entitled "Nouvelle Orthographe Française," by M. Aug. Durand, haz been publisht in Paris. It embodiz a radical sistem ov fonetic speling for the French langguaje, hwich iz claimd to efect an economi ov nearli thirti persent. The scheme reseivd a medal at the French Industrial Exhibition ov 1891.

—Az the Speling-Reform gainz favor with the public, some American newspaperz and periodicalz spel in a fashion that can onli cover the editorz and the reform with ridicule. The first articl in the April number ov the *Auction Trade Journal*, New York, containz the folowing atrocious spelings, under the pretens ov reforming English orthografi: *thes*, these; *to-da*, to-day; *henc*, hence; *bakd*, baked; *clos*, close; *whol*, whole; *U*, you; *bal*, ball; *wher*, where; *dorwa*, doorway; *tha*, they; etc. In advocating a reform in our speling, by rational meanz, we feel bound to protest agenst theze caricaturez ov reformd speling. Tho our remonstrans will not stop the evl, it iz our duty to mention it, and to protest agenst this supozd remedi for our "corrupt" orthografi.—*The Phonetic Journal*.

QUERIZ.

7. (Anser). In anser to your inquiri alow me to say: there haz bin considerabl labor spent in introducing fonetic reading into African misionz under Bishop Taylor and otherz. Mr. Pitman, ov England, haz sent hiz seriez ov Fonetic Primerz and hiz New Testament in fonetics to quite a number ov stationz. But all this labor and expens hav not been ov much yuse. Meni ov the misionariz had litl hart in the work. Hwere it waz priti thuroli taut for a hwile the scolarz wer discourajd by the ridicule ov most hwite men and traderz, who asured them this waz not the hwite man'z way ov reading, and that if they lernd it they coud read onli a few books, and woud hav to lern the hwite man'z way after all. A good thoro misionari by the name ov Thompson had fine suceses teaching it. But hwen he was succeeded by another the hole work fel throu becauz "the hwite man did not read that way." In literature, az in moralz, we must giv the benited hethen our own egzempl behind our teaching to make it efectual. T. B. WELCH.

Our Language.

DEVOTED TO

SPELING-RIFORM NIUZ AND DHI DISKUSHUN OV KWESCHUNZ IN ALFABETIKS.

PUBLISHT MUNTHLI, AT 3 BOND ST., NEW YORK.

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Webster's International Dictionary iz dhi ðhoriti on pronunsiēshun folōd báí dhis péper.

DHI NIU SPELING.

am	end	ill	odd	up
ārm	thēy	police	ōld	rūde
cāre	fērn	ōrb	būrn	
āsak		ōbey	fūll	

ái áú òi iú

chair, sharp, azure, thin, dhen, sing.

Dhi smòl numbèr ov supòrtērz hwich OUR LANGUAGE haz had sō fār shōz tīdhēr dhat dhi péper haz bin akseptēbl tú ðnli a minoriti ov speling-rifòrmērz òr els dhat dhi mājoriti hav bin tú lūkwōrm òr intoleránt tú supòrt it. Onli tú objekshunz tú it hav evèr bin mēd. Wun iz dhat it haz not undèrtēkn tú pūsh dhi pārschal korekshunz ov dhi Philological Societies; and dhi rīzn hwái it haz not dun sō iz dhat it iz dīvōted tú udhēr and mōr nīglek-ted wūrck. Dhi udhēr objekshun iz dhat its speling haz bin tú modèrēt and sīmd inkonsis-tent tú dhōz hū wād not tēk dhi trubl tú un-

dèrstand it. Òi gráúnd fòr dhis kritisizm haz náú bin rīmūvd báí dhi adopshun ov dhi nīú speling.

Dhis speling iz not dhi editērz "skīm"; it iz not a kompetitòr fòr jenèral akseptāns; it iz a tempórēri arēnjment fòr dhi yūs ov dhis péper until rifòrmērz ágrī upon a kom-plīt alfabet. It iz konfáind tú òld leterz fòr tū rīzn: dhi ekspens ov nīú leterz, and dhi utēr lak ov ágrīment az tú hwot fòrmz dhi nīú wunz shúd hav. Dhus limited áí had tú chūz bitwin dáigrafs and dáíakritiks fòr párt ov dhi alfabet. Fòr dhi konsónants dhi chōis woz tzi. Káúnting k dhār ár 18 dhat nīd nō chēnj; fòr dhi udhēr 6 dhār iz a set ov dáigrafs hwich ár ðlmōst ðlwēz yūzd in fōnetik speling hwār nīú leterz ár not emplōid, nēmli, *ch*, *sh*, *zh*, *th*, *dh*, and *ng*. Fòr tempórēri yūs áí kúd not dū betēr dhan tú ádopt dhiz.

Az rigārdz dhi váuēlz, dhi fērst kweschun woz dhār numbèr, and hīr dhi sēfest wē sīmd tú bi tú inklūd, fòr dhi present, ðl dhat eni konsidèrēbl numbèr ov rifòrmērz wish tú hav inklūded—a tōtál ov 21 váuēlz and dif-thongz. Dhis numbèr mē bi riditst áftēr fūrdhēr diskushun. Dhen kém dhi mōd ov reprtizing dhēm. A litl eksperimenting widh dáigrafs—prōdūsing such stringz ov váuēlz az *traoing* (trying) and *emploaiear* (employer)—woz enuf tu mēk mī dīasīd on dáíakritiks. Áí let *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, and *u* unmarkt stand fòr dhār mōst komun, òr "shòrt" sáúndz. Dhen áí tūk dhi sērckumfleks aksent az dhi sáin ov dhi "Kontinental" valyūz, giving *ā*, *ē*, *ī*, *ō*, and *ū* az in *arm*, *they*, *police*, *old*, and *rude*. Fòr ov dhi váuēlz hav sáúndz dhat okūr ðlmōst eksklūsivli bīfōr *r*; fòr dhiz áí yūzd dhi grēv aksent, giving *ā*, *ē*, *ī*, and *ū* az in *care*, *fern*, *orb*, and *burn*. Dhis

rimënd dhi *a* in *ask*, *o* in *obey*, and *u* in *full*, fòr hwich ái túk dhi akiút—á, ó, and ú. Dhi difthongz in *aisle*, *out*, *oil* and *mute* ár reprizented báí kombinêshunz ov dhi simpl váuelz, akòrding tú Webster's analisis—ái, áú, òi, and iú. Dhis iz árbitrêri, ov kòrs, and iz not dhi best skim fòr òl pùrpòsez, but fòr printing a speling-rtfòrm niúzpêper, at dhi prezent táim áí bíliv it iz dhi móst praktíkêbl. Ái yúz aksents radhèr dhan Webster's òr eni udhèr dáíakritiks, bikòz dhi fòrmèr ár fáund in a much lárjèr numbèr ov printing-ofisez dhan dhi latèr. Wun difikulti in yúzing òl mârkt váuelz iz dhat dhé hav nò plésez in dhi printer's regyúlár kês, but must bí tékn from a suplementèri kês and distribiúted intú it áftèr dhé kum bak from dhi pres. Ái hóp tú avòid dhis difikulti in párt ov máí printing báí ómiting dhi aksents. Such wúrdz az “párt, ávòid, púsh, áftèr, fòrm,” kan bí red mór ízili widháút dhi aksents dhan widh dhém, and dhàr ár meni udhèr on hwich nò ridèr ov dhis pèpèr wúd evèr stumbl íf dhi aksents wèr ómited. Wí wil tráí it and sí.

ENGLISH OR CONTINENTAL VAUELZ?

[As an eksperiment, aksents ar ómited in dhis ártikl hwar-
ever speling-rtformers ar not laikli tu nid dhar help.]

Dhis kweschun, hwich woz rézd in dhi last number ov OUR LANGUAGE, haz arauzd waid-spreed interest. Dhi folóing iz a ferst instòlment ov dhi anserz tu it dhat hav bin risivd:

MR. F. A. FERNALD:

Dir Ser.—Ái prifer tu giv dhi Roman or Continental valyúz tu dhi vauelz for dhi folóing riznz:

1. Bikòz dhi American Philological Association haz adopted dhíz valyúz, and bikòz a larj majoriti ov dhi skolarz in langguêj in dhi United States prifer dhém. At dhi mitting ov dhi Am. Phil. As'n in 1876, dhi komiti on dhi reformêshun ov English speling riported, amung udher thingz, dhat “the Roman alphabet is so widely and firmly established in use among the leading civilized nations that it can not be displacèd: in adapting it to improved use for English, the efforts of scholars should be directed towards its use with *uniformity and in conformity with other nations.*”

2. Bikòz in 1877 dhi Spelling Reform Association adopted dhis riport, giving dhi Roman valyúz tu dhi vauelz. For dhi 15 yirz ov its egzistens, dhi wurk ov dhi As'n haz bin *along dhis lain.*

3. Bikòz dhi English Philological Society

haz adopted dhi Roman valyúz, and dhi English skolarz fèvor dhém.

4. Bikòz dhi U. S. Board on Geographic Names haz adopted dhi Roman valyúz. In its ferst report it sez: “The vowels are to be pronounced as in Italian and on the Continent of Europe generally, and the consonants as in English.”

5. Bikòz dhi Royal Geographical Society, ov England, haz adopted dhi Continental valyúz ov dhi vauelz. Dhé direkt dhat “Feejee” bí chènjd tu “Fiji.”

6. Bikòz dhi Standard Dictionary nau bting mēd haz òl dhi wúrdz rt-speld in dhi saientifik alfabet ov dhi Spelling Reform Association, widh dhi Roman or Continental valyúz ov dhi vauelz.

7. Bikòz a fonetik speling ov English widh dhi Roman valyúz ov dhi vauelz wil enēbl òl forinerz mór kwikli tu akwair it, and wil hav a strong tendensi tu inkris its yús az dhi diplomatik and komersshal langguêj ov dhi wúrd. It mé dhen hóp tu bikum dhi much tòkt ov “Yuniversal Langguêj.”

O. C. BLACKMER.

Dispòzd tu akwiēs in a verdikt dhat iz a verdikt indid (a dísizhun mēd bai òthoriti), ái daut hwedher in dhi kês ov *C versus K* wun haz bin renderd. Hau fiu ov dhi skolarz hu shúd bí aur gaidz in dhi mater hav spòkn dhàr maindz. Iz dhàr no dēnjer dhat yúr “Verdikt” wil bí riverst?

In rigard tu dhi vauelz mai vót iz for *Continental valyúz*; and in rigard tu difthongz it iz for dhàr *reprizentêshun bai dhi sainz ov dhàr elements*. Ái konsent in òl dhat yu hav sed on dhis point on p. 43.

J. H. KIDDER.

Az nírli az posibl let aur vauelz agrt widh dhi Continental; dhen forinerz kan lern aur langguêj ízier and dhen it wil sūner bikum yúniversal.

L. LYON.

Prof. A. Knoflach, and Messrs. J. M. McKinlay, N. J. Werner, J. C. Williams, and Halsey V. Fitch hav òlso prizented argiuments in fèvor ov dhi Continental valyúz. For lak ov spēs dhàr leterz ar held over til nekst munth. Nun in fèvor ov dhi English valyúz haz bin risivd, and, az dhi taid siml tu bí runing òl wun wē, dhi former hav bin adopted in OUR LANGUAGE. Dhi diskushun, hauerer, iz not yet klòzd.

—1000 ekstrá kopiz ov dhi Sept. O. L., kontēning dhi ártikl on “A Chance for a Noble Philanthropy,” wèr printed and wèr mēld tú pèrsnz ov welth òl òvèr dhi United States.

The Step-by-Step Primer. In Burnz' Pronouncing Print. By ELIZA BOARDMAN BURNZ. 94 p., S. il. Burnz & Co., 24 Clinton Place, New York, bds. 25 cents.

Nô môr valyûábl búk dhan dhis fôr elemen-têri ediûkêshun or dhi advans ov fônetik trûth haz aprêd in meni yîrz. It iz jenyûin fônetik tîching, yet it iz adapted tú prezent ediûkêshunal kondishunz. In dhi wûrdz ov dhi Introduction, "The Step-by-Step Primer is designed to teach the child that *letters stand for spoken sounds*; and although he will find in his further progress that this usage is sadly perverted, it is the duty of the teacher to make, as far as possible, the *first steps* logical and certain, and, therefore, attractive."

Dhi fêrst lesn iz on dhi wûrd *cat*. In it dhi piûpil iz tût dhat dhis wûrd konsists ov thri sáúndz—*c* standing fôr dhi fêrst, *a* fôr dhi sekund, and *t* fôr dhi thêrd, and dhat ich letêr stándz fôr its ôn sáúnd hwe-dher álôn òr yûnáited widh dhi udhêrz. Hî iz not búrdend widh dhi nênz ov dhi letêrz, hwich wúd bî wûrs dhan yûsles tú him at dhis stêj. In tch ov dhi nekst sevn lesnz wun niû konsônant iz tût, dhen kum dhi shòrt váúelz *i*, *e*, *o*, *u*, and tû inôr konsônants. Sins dhi shòrt váúelz okûr oftenest dhê hav dhi unmárkt letêrz. In dhi fiftin th lesn dhi fêrst márt váúel iz tût—I widh *y* az an îkwivalent. In dhi sevntin th kumz in a píkiûlyèr fîtiûr ov dhi búk, hwich konsists in shôing hwot sáúnd a letêr haz hwen it duz not hav its ôn sáúnd, báí píting a smòl kí-letêr undêr it; thus *s* in "is, as, has" haz a smòl *z* undêr it. In dhi nekst lesn sáilent letêrz ár intrôdiûst printed in Dr. Leigh's hàr-láin táip, and dhi fôlôing lesnz bring in dhi rest ov dhi váúelz márt widh Webster's dáíákritiks, dhi dáígrafs jòind báí ligátíûrz, and a fiû speshál iregiûlárítiz. Tú dhi veri hást lesn in dhi búk evêri letêr shôz on its fês just hwot sáúnd it standz fôr. "Hints on Phonic Teaching" ár givn tú asist tîchèrs hûz prívius eksprîens haz not prîpàrd dhem fôr yûzing such a búk. An aprêch tú dhi fônetik method ov tîching ridîng haz bîn gêning gráúnd rapidli sô dhat in meni plêsez it wúd bî ônli a step fôrward tú dhi adopshun ov dhis primèr. Dhàr iz nô rifôrmd speling in it sô it wúd bî akseptêbl in meni kêsez hwàr a rî-speld primèr wúd hav nô chans, and dhàr is not a trêz ov "krangkines" abáút it from kuvêr tú kuvêr. Grafik ilustrêshunz hav bin supláid libèráli, and dhi mîkanikál wûrk iz ov a háí grêd. Nô speling-rifôrmdèr wil hav dun hiz hôl diûti tú dhi kôz dhis yîr if hî duz not ásk dhi siûperintendent ov skûlz

in hiz siti òr táún tú adopt Mrs. Burnz's primèr. A spesimen ov its print folôz:

Burnz' Pronouncing Print

This new print is offered to the educational world for the purpose of effecting two desirable results: First, to enable children and illiterate adults to acquire a knowledge of English reading in a shorter time than is now possible by means of ordinary primers or readers; second, to bring about a more general and thorough knowledge of the elementary sounds of our language.

Suspension of the Language Department.—Since the advertising was dropped, OUR LANGUAGE has consisted of four pages of spelling-reform matter and four pages of articles on other subjects connected with the English language. The latter department was introduced when the paper was started, in the hope that it would be a source of help by drawing subscriptions from persons who would not subscribe for a purely phonetic journal. It has not met this expectation, although a few persons who have subscribed out of friendship for the editor have probably found their only recompense in it. A reduction in the expenses of the paper being necessary, this department will be discontinued for the present. Enough space will be taken, however, in this number and the next to complete Mr. Sykes's essay. The editor expects that this will lose him some subscribers who are not interested in spelling-

reform, but the reduction of income on this account will be far outbalanced by the saving in outlay for printing.

For spelling-reformers OUR LANGUAGE will be as efficient an organ as ever, for it will still have four pages of space for reform matter, just as before.

AMERICAN SPEECH AND STANDARD ENGLISH.

BY FRED. H. SYKES, M. A.

[Continued.]

To enumerate the words that the tremendous industrial activity and political and military struggles have called into existence, it would be folly to attempt here. Bartlett's "Dictionary of Americanisms," is a volume of over eight hundred pages, admirable though often unreliable—yet new volumes are constantly issuing from the press to keep pace with the tide of new words. Within the last few months we have a Dictionary of American slang,* and a volume of "Political Americanisms,"† primarily for the cause of research in the field of unrecorded words and special phases of pronunciation.

In politics especially, the study of vocabulary is interesting. Let us pause a moment at a few words.

The word "boodle" is an important word in politics—a sort of watch-word. The New England Dictionary quotes from Markham, 1625, "Men curiously and carefully chosen out from all the Buddle and mass of great ones." This word "buddle," "crowd," "lot," is without doubt connected with the New England "boodle," as in "He would like to have the whole boodle of them," (O. W. Holmes, 1857, "Autocrat," p. 139). Then from the frequent collocation, "the whole kit and boodle," I think we may account for the rise of "the whole caboodle." But "boodle" in its political sense is not as the New English Dictionary defines it, "stock in trade," "capital." It is therefore scarcely possible to connect it in meaning with the Dutch *boedel* (pronounced boodel), estate, inheritance, household goods, stuff, lumber. The first step towards the solution of its origin seems to be afforded by a line from Macaulay's "Political Georgics," (1828), where an allusion is made to "boodle's patriot band," the context showing the reference to be to "plunder," (Norton). But no English dictionary remarks this use of the word. Apparently it is rare and dialectic or even slang. But whether, from the Dutch *boedel*, or Markham's *buddle*, or Macaulay's *boodle*, the

fact is that some five years ago it became among the aldermen of New York a word of transcendent importance, and from New York has spread, with its relatives boodling, and boodlers, even to the legislators of Canada.

Gerrymander. There is another word that Canadian and United States politics has had evil occasion to use—the word "gerrymander." Most of you are familiar with the origin of this word, yet because it illustrates the rapidity with which American speakers act on a hint, and the immediate currency that is given to a new word, I venture to recall to your memory the incidents of its origin. The story goes that in 1811 Governor Gerry of Massachusetts, having re-arranged the constituencies in favor of the Democrats, Stuart, the painter, talking with Russell, of the Boston *Sentinel*, said of the map of the new districts: "That will do for a Salamander." "A Salamander!" exclaimed Russell, "call it a Gerrymander!" And a "gerrymander" the reptile has remained.

Tammany. Tammany Hall, or Tammany influence is another potent phrase from New York. Tammany, strange to say, was a Maryland chief of Delaware Indians, whose name was used as the designation of a patriot society (1789) with wigwams in different towns. The society became political in character, but the branches in Philadelphia and elsewhere died out, and only Tammany Hall—the New York "wigwam" remains to support Senator Hill and control the Democratic vote of New York.

So, had we time, we might see the origin of "ballot-box stuffing," "waving the bloody shirt," "bolters," "boom," "boss-rule," "bull-doze," (better bull-dose, a dose of cow-hiding), "bummer," "buncome," "campaign," "carpet-bagger," "caucus," "electors," "F. F. V.'s," "filibuster" (not yet Canadian in the United States sense of delaying proceedings in Congress by calling for yeas and nays, so as to gain time to defeat a bill), "in the soup," "green-backs," "hoodlums," "kickers," "lobbyists," "log-rolling," "machine politics," "wire-pulling," "to have a pull," "mugwump," "O. K.," "pair off," "ring," "ringsters," "roor-back," "Salt River," or, as we say, "Salt Creek," down to "Yankee," "Uncle Sam," and "Brother Jonathan."—From *The Educational Journal*, Toronto.

[To be concluded.]

*American Slang Dictionary, James Maitland. Chicago: R. J. Kittredge & Co.

†Political Americanisms. Charles Ledyard Norton: Longmans, Green & Co., 1890.

Our Language.

DEVOTED TO
SPELING-RIFORM NIUZ AND DHI DISKUSHUN OV KWESCHUNZ IN ALFABETIKS.

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Dhi speling ov dhis pêper iz not propôzd for jeneral adopshun. It iz yûzd hîr for present konvinyens and wil bi supersided hwen a môr nîrli perfekt môd haz bin agrid upon.

Kontributed artiklz and leterz wil bi speld in dhi stail ov dhi pêper, eksept dhôz dhat ar inserted az ilustrêshunz ov partikiular fônetik skîmz.

Webster's International Dictionary iz dhi ôthoritî on pronunsiêshun folôd bái dhis pêper.

EKSPLANATORI TEBL.

am	end	ill	odd	up
ârn	thêy	police	ôld	rûde
càre	fêrn		ôrb	bûrn
âsk			ôbey	fûll
ái	áú	ôí	iú	
chair, sharp, azure, thin, dhen, sing.				

TU NON-SUBSKRAIBING SPELING-RIFORMERZ

Sumthing ôver á hundred sampl kopiz ov dhis number ov OUR LANGUAGE âr sent tú speling-riformêrz hû âr not subskráibêrz tú dhis pêper and probáblî not tú eni speling-riform jûrnál. Tú dhîz pèrsnz áí wish tú sê dhat it iz ekstrîmli impôrtánt fôr áúr mûvment tú hav á vigêrus and libêrál ôrgán, áptrîng regyûlârli az ofn az wuns á munth, fôr sêrkîûlêshun ámung áúrselvz. A jûrnál hûz chîf pûrpûs iz tú win konvêrts mê hav á

dîfêrent karaktêr. OUR LANGUAGE áskz yûr supôrt on dhi gráúnd dhat it iz betêr ádapted tú yûr nîdz dhan eni udhêr speling-riform pêpêr náú publisht. It telz yû ích munth hwot yûr bredhren âr dîng fôr dhi kôz bôth at hóm and ábrôd; it fûrnîshez á mînz ov plêsing yûr víûz bîfôr ôl dhi áktiv rîfôrmêrz ov America and menî in dhi ôld wûrld; it iz kûrtîûs tú bôth dhi filolôjist and dhi háf edyûkêted enthûziast; it iz not tú dignîfáid tú konsîdêr ívn dhi mistêks ov ineksptrîenst rîfôrmêrz and tú eksplên hwái dhê âr mistêks; it iz karing on á sistematik kanvâs ov dhi víûz ov its rîdêrz hwîch iz bringîng áút dhi privêling ópinyunz az tú ích fîtîûr ov dhi áidîál alfábet and hwen komplît wil bi ov inestimêbl valyû fôr dhi gáidáns ov wûrkêrz; dhi pêpêr iz môr láikli tú rîch á self-supôrtîng béisîs dhan eni ov dhi udhêr fônetik pêpêrz fôr áí fil sêf in sêing dhat it haz môr pêd subskrípshunz ôlredi dhan eni udhêr haz—yû kan sî dhi numbêr evêrî munth but dhi udhêr pêpêrz wil not print dhârz; fáináli, it duz not tráí tú fôrs dhi víûz ov dhi editêr upon yû but hwot it shal advókêt iz blîng dîtêrmînd bái dhi kanvâs ov víûz menshûnd ábu—yû kan mêk yûr ínfûens felt in its polîsî bái subskráibîng fôr it and téking part in its diskushunz. Dhi editêr haz publisht dhis pêpêr at á hevî los fôr á yîr and á háf but hí kan not dâ sô indefínitli. If it iz áláud tú dáí dhôz rîfôrmêrz hû dâ not subskráib fôr it wil bi tú blêm, and dhê wil hav dhi satisfakshun ov fûrnîshîng dhi enemîz ov dhi rêfôrm wîdh gúð rîzn fôr sêing dhat nô speling-riform jûrnál kan liv unles it iz supôrted bái its editêr. Yû blîv in speling-riform—háú much dâ yû fîl dhat yû áút tú dâ fôr it dhis wîntêr?

[Aksents ar omitted in dhi folowing artikls hwarever spelling-riformers ar not laikli tu nid dhar help.]

ENGLISH OR CONTINENTAL VAUELZ? (Kontinyûd.)

Dhi leterz printed bilo wer ðl risivd in taim for dhi last ishûd, but wer held over for lak ov spês. A riplai tu Mr. Blackmer, bai Mrs. Burnz, iz nau in hand and must ðlso wêt a munth for its turn.

Editor of OUR LANGUAGE:

Dir Ser. — Yu kòl for opinyunz az tu hwedher "English or Continental valyûz" shûd bi givn tu dhi vauel leterz. Ai am disaiddedli ov opinyun dhat Continental valyûz shûd bi givn.

Dhis sinz ðlso tu bi dhi opinyun ov dhi filolojists: si dhi marking ov pronunsiêshun in Murray's dikshuneri; si Skeat's "Principles of English Etymology." Dhi leterz a, e, i, o, u, hav bin niknêmd bai dhi English.

Konsider dhi pronunsiêshun givn tu Latin nau-a-dêz in dhi American kolejez and hai klas skûlz.

Chênj ov vauel araizing from chênj ov aksent or from ading an afiks iz not pikiul- yer tu English. It okurd in Latin: *instans*, *lego*, *diliyo*; *capio*, *cepi*, *incipio*; *pœna*, *impunitas*. It okurz in Spanish, a langguej hûz reprizentêshun iz nirli fônètik, and dhi spelling iz mêl tu siut; *rogar*, tu rikwest, *ruego*, ai rikwest; *cerrar*, tu shut, *cierra*, ai shut; *pedir*, tu ask, *pido*, ai ask.

Yûrz truli, JAMES M. MCKINLAY.

Ai am in fêvor ov adopting dhi "Continental" valyûz ov dhi vauel sainz az dhi bêsis ov fônètik spelling in dhi English langguej, for dhi folowing riznz:

1. Dhi hól saiens ov filoloji iz bêt on dhiz valyûz. In hiz "Oriental and Linguistic Studies," Prof. W. D. Whitney points aut dhi grêt disadvantêjez under hwich eni English student lêberz at prezent on têking up dhi studi ov filoloji.

2. Dhi studi ov Latin and ðl European modern langguejez will bi grêtli fasilîtêd.

3. Dhi studi ov dhi English langguej bai forinerz wil bi renderd imezhurebli izier, and English wil dhen spidili atên tu hwot its gramatikal simplisiti entaitlz it tu—dhi pozishun ov dhi "Langguej ov dhi Wûrld."

A. KNOFLACH.

Az rigardz dhi pronunsiêshun ov dhi faiv vauelz, put mi daun in fêvor ov dhi Continental valyûz. In dhis rispekt ai agri fûli widh dhi S. R. A's fônètik skim. In vin ov dhi fakt dhat in ðl langguejez efforts ar biing mêl at orthografik riform, wi ðt tu wurk

tôard not awê from a komon agriment, and if dhâr iz enithing dhê *kan* ðl agri on it iz dhi faiv piur Continental vauelz. Aur distorshun ov dhiz vauelz akaunts for dhi abominêbl wê in hwich English spikerz pronouns Latin wurdz, hwich fârlî sets wun'z tith on ej hwen herd. N. J. WERNER.

Dhi yûs ov dhi vauel leterz widh dhi Continental valyûz iz dhi most important and neseseri fitiur ov a true speling riform. Dhi English method iz so fundementali inkorekt and unsaientifik dhat nuthing kan bi dun widh it. Hau wûd it bi posibl for children tu obtên a korekt nolej ov dhi vauel saundz ov dhi English langguej if dhê wer tu si, in wurdz supôzd tu bi spelt fonetikali, dhi vauel saund in *ale* grafikali 'dinoted az dhi long saund koresponding tu dhi short vauel in *at*: e. g. *âl*, *ât*. It wûd sertinli rikwair a grêt dil ov eksplanêshun tu niutraliz dhi efekt ov dhi fôls sistem ov speling. If dhis iz indid dhi "Jenius ov English spelling" it must bi delt widh az King Solomon in dhi "Arabian Nights" iz kredited widh having delt widh tvl jînai. J. C. WILLIAMS.

[Mr. H. V. Fitch telz hau dhi yûs ov an American insted ov an internashunal method ov niuzikal notêshun haz kôzd inkonvinyens in dhis kuntri, and kontinyûz:]

A sumhwot, similar thing woz a mistêkn aidia ov pêriotizm in aur giograferz sum yîrz ago attempting tu rekn aur lonjitiud from Washington insted ov dhi plês from hwich dhi rest ov dhi wûrld reknd it.

Nau ov kôrs dhi abuv ar not kwait parallel kêsez widh dhi kweschun ov English or Continental valyûz for vauelz, but ai think it iz dizairebl to konform tu dhi sêm standard az udher nêshunz, iz dhat standard iz a gûd wun. Widh aur inkrising interchênjez widh udher nêshunz wurdz and nênz hav kum intu dhi English langguej widh forin valyûz for dhi vauelz, and dhâr iz hardli an English-spiking persn ov eni edyukêshun hû duz not understand dhôz valyûz. Wi faind dhem ðlso ivn in komon nêtiv wurdz laik *mama*, *they*, *machine*, *truth*, etc. HALSEY V. FITCH.

—No. 6 ov *Spelling* (Julai, 1892) haz just bin ishûd. It kontênz valuebl artiklz on "Reformers and 'Cranks'", "The Study of Fonetics," "Words speld or pronounced alike," etc., and vêtûs nôts on okurense ov dhi ferst half ov dhis yîr.

—Pêments ov subskripsunz tu OUR LANGUAGE wer risivd in October from—

J. M. Klûh Mrs. C. A. Rohrabacher +
Dhi hól number nau in fôrs iz 170.

Dhi Durborow Rezolushun in Komiti.

—Ai lern from *Spelling* dhat a mting' ov dhi Komiti on Edyukeshun, ov dhi House ov Representatives, woz held June 1st, tu konsider speling-riform, at hwich Mr. Dewey reprizented dhi Spelling Reform Association in suport ov dhi Durborow Rezolushun. Dhi Komiti lisnd atentivli tu dhi arguments prizented tu it and shôd a gratifaing aprishiêshun ov dhi importans ov dhi riform. In dhi kôrs ov dhi seshun dhi American flag kuverd widh dhi Story alfabet, hwich Mr. S. had manêjd tu get displêd in dhi komitirûm, woz tèkn daun and put awê. It woz dimd best bai dhi Komiti, in order tu antisipêt posibl objekshunz, tu mèk thrî ôlterêshunz in dhi bil (H. R. 8032), az printed. Dhi fêrst woz tu alau dhi hed ov a department tu direkt dhat in speshal wurks dhi old orthografi shûd bi yûzd. Dhi rûl tu chênj *ph* tu *f* woz omited bikôz ov its efek on dhi alfabetikal plês ov wurdz. Insted ov dhis 'dhi folôing niu jeneral rûl woz suggested: "Whenever variant spellings of a word are found in the current dictionaries, use the simplest form recommended by the American Philological Association and the English Philological Society." Dhi S. R. A. haz dun wel tu tèk up dhis mater ofishali after dhi vigerus kampên for it kondukted bai Mr. Boss last winter.

[Ai regret dhat ai kûd not giv mai riderz dhis niuz in Julai, but no wun inforind mi ov dhi miting.]

—A kopi ov No. 5 ov *The Spelling Reformer*—dhi onli wun dhat ai hav risîvd—kêm tu hand risentli. It iz a 12-pêj munthli magazin, publiht bai Dr. Larison, at Ringoes, N. J., and dhi subskripshun prais iz 50 sents a yir, singgl number 12 sents. It iz les radikal dhan dhi "Jurnal ov Othoepe," biing spelt akording tu dhi "24-rûlz." Dhi number bifôr mi iz mêd up ov miselênîus mater advokêting dhi niu speling or ridikiuling dhi old. It kontênz ôlso a list ov 31 priodikalz dhat yûz amended spefingz.

KORESPONDENS.

JOHN M. MOTT.—Mai individyual opinyun ov yûr niu alfabet iz not important inuf tu giv yu, but dhi majoriti opinyun of dhi riderz ov OUR LANGUAGE iz valyuebl. Yu kan si hwot dhis iz on tch ditêl az it iz brôt out in diskushun. Bai antisipêting a litl ai kan giv yu wun aitem ov interest, i. e., dhat dhâr iz not laikli to bi much dissent from dhi doktrin eksprest in September, dhat difthongz shûd not bi reprizented bai singgl leterz.

HALSEY V. FITCH.—Most riformerz hav konkluded, ai biliv, dhat pûting everi wurd thru a siriz of progresiv amendments wûd prolong dhi inkonvinyens ov tranzishun beyond ôl endurans. A moderêt number ov parshal korekshunz ar yûsful for enêbling riformerz tu sho dhâr kulerz, but dhi jeneral publik shûd not bi askt tu chênj its habit ov speling until wi kan ofer it sumthing beter dhan an efemeral stail.

—Anudher propôzal for a riform ov Spanish speling haz aptrd in Chile. It iz publiht az a pamflet, under dhi taitl "Notas sobre la Reforma Ortografiqua," at Santiago, and dhi ôthor iz Qarlos Qabazon.

—With the conclusion of the following article the language department of this paper is suspended.

AMERICAN SPEECH AND STANDARD ENGLISH.

BY FRED H. SYKES, M. A.

(Concluded.)

As to the pronunciation of English in America, there is, as I have tried to show, no absolute uniformity, only an approximate uniformity. The question arises, what relation does this approximately uniform pronunciation hold with respect to Standard English? Richard Grant White, in his "Mr. Washington Adam in England," notes *à propos* of his writing an Englishman's remark, "Give you some good shoootin'," that it is only by the use of a superfluous *o* that he can indicate the prolonged vowel sound in this word, which is one of the very few and very slight differences, he says, in pronunciation between England and New England or New York men of similar breeding. The dropping of *g* from the syllable *ing* is not universal among men of this class in England, but it is common; much more common than in the class just below them. Careful observers, however, go further than Mr. White went, and wider differences must be noted, especially if we discuss the average speech of educated Americans.

Recently Professor Jebb, of Cambridge University, delivered a series of lectures in the Johns Hopkins University. When President Gilman had ended his address of welcome and of introduction, and Professor Jebb began to speak, a smile, not ill-natured nor unkindly, ran over the faces of a cultured and representative Baltimore audience. Every ear marked a distinctive English accent and acknowledged its strangeness. To analyze

the differences between American and English pronunciation is not easy, yet some of the chief differences can be pointed out.

The accentuation of secondary syllables is more distinct in America than in England, and the secondary vowels have consequently more nearly their etymological value.

Compare:

Gládstòne	with	Gládstn
Mílitary	"	Mílitrý
Yésterdày	"	Yéstedí*
Látin (New England)		Látn
Fórhead	with	Fórid*

In a nation of readers, in schools where the spelling book and dictionary are fetishes as in America, the influence of the printed word will constantly tend to a distinct enunciation of every part of the word in conformity with the printed letters.

Another marked difference is the far greater modulation of the voice. To an American who is accustomed to a dead level of pitch as he speaks, the wide range of inflections in an Englishman's discourse savors of sing-song. Froude notes, though not accurately, in his *Oceana*, a part of this difference, when he speaks of the tendency of the American to raise his voice at the close of a sentence, as if to ask a question.

Again, in English, medial *r* before a consonant, and generally final *r*, are entirely vocalized.

Warm	Wom [wóm*]
Sharp	Shaap [shaap*]
Dirt	Düt-t [deät*]
Saturday	Satü-di*
Far	Faa
Waiter	Wait-ə [weitä*]

"Farther" or "father" are equally fá-thə.†

In America usage is divided, Canada deviating most and Boston, I think, least.

Standard English uniformly drops *h* when used with *w*, *wi*,* *were*, *wen*, *wat*,* for "why," "where," "when," "what," while in America the feeling of standard speech is tending to the articulation of *h*.

The nasality of the majority of speakers in the United States is in marked contrast with the oral vowels of English speech. The various theories put forward to account for its origin are proofs sufficient of its existence. Whether it is a remnant of the Puritan custom of singing psalms through the nose, or a result of the chronic catarrh that afflicts

every other person in New England, or, as a writer in the *Southern Review* suggests, because the Yankee narrows "the volume of his mouth, in order to keep out the east wind or make his pork and molasses go further,"‡ we can not determine. But undoubtedly and unfortunately the nasal twang of the New Englander is affecting the speech of the mass of speakers of the United States.

In conclusion: I have endeavored to show that the point of view for American speech in its first stage is the provincial speech of England; that the literary language of America was derived from the literary language of England, that American literature, with the aid of the school-house and pulpit, fought back the dialects and established a more or less uniform standard of speech, which retains, however, abundant dialectical phrases; that the new condition of social and industrial life in a new country have brought into existence hosts of expressions that defy the lexicographer to keep pace with.

What the future will bring forth is not easy to foresee. The reaction of American upon English speech has been long operative and powerful, adding to the flexibility and expressiveness of the mother tongue. He is a wise man who looks to the establishment of a standard of speech in America, which, while agreeing as it must in the main, with standard English, will allow room for natural growth and development, and will not endeavor on the basis of distant usage to root out words or pronunciations that have become part and parcel the language of this continent. We, in America, are not so far from British speech that we can not rejoice in the words of Charles MacKay in a recent number of the *Nineteenth Century*. "Our noble speech," writes the Englishman, "promises to become the predominant, though not perhaps the only language of the civilization of the coming centuries, and is already heard like the morning drum-beat of British power in every part of the globe. It floats upon the wings of a widely pervading literature, and a still more widely pervading commerce to the uttermost ends of the earth, and will inevitably be the speech, more or less preserved in its purity" [let us hope not to be as he fears] "corrupted by ignorance, carelessness, or the imitative perversity of the young and mighty nations which are arising or have arisen in North America, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, and in every country where seed can grow or man can thrive."—From *The Educational Journal*, Toronto.

* Sweet, "History of English Sounds."

† Sweet, "Primer of Phonetics."

‡ *Southern Review*, vol. ix, p. 301; 1883.

Our Language.

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Dhi speling ov dhis pêper iz not propôzd for jeneral adopshun. It iz yûzd hîr for pre-zent konvinyens and wil bi supersided hwen a môr nîrli perfekt môd haz bin agrîd upon.

Kontributed artiklz and leterz wil bi speld in dhi stail ov dhi pêper, but spês wil bi givn for wun ilustrêshun ov eni udher propôzd fônetik skîm.

Webster's International Dictionary iz dhi ôthoriti on pronunsiêshun folôd bái dhis pêper.

ENGLISH SPELLING REFORM.

BY A. L. BANCROFT.

The views regarding the reform of English spelling set forth herein vary materially from those held by many reformers who are working to effect this much needed improvement. As space is limited, I will be brief.

"The way to resume is to resume." If the dog's tail is to be cut off do it at one stroke, whether the place of amputation is behind the rump or behind the ears, and give the poor brute a chance to recover or put him out of his misery. Don't do it by inches. This is the situation. The English language has about forty-three or forty-five sounds with but twenty-six characters to represent them. Children and foreigners require from three to five times as much time to learn English as should be necessary and this obstacle makes

the learning of English by foreigners very difficult.

In order to reform English spelling what must be done? First, decide just what sounds are to be represented independent of the means by which they are to be represented. Next, decide upon the one uniform way to represent each of those sounds. Lastly, publish a dictionary with the new spelling in connection with the old. This done and the reform is accomplished.

Who is interested in it and should have part in the movement to accomplish it? England, the United States, Canada, Australia, India, other British colonies and all other countries where English is used, and each should have a voice in and be represented in the work as it progresses. An International English Spelling Reform Association should be organized in every English speaking settlement of the world. It is not necessary that the membership be large or general, but that it be composed of the right kind of people who are thoroughly interested and in earnest. Then when final action is taken, whether it be done by each branch society acting independently in adopting the same plan or at a general congress there will be an organization in every land to lead in the use and work for the adoption of the reform.

Just what sounds should be provided with characters to represent them? There is some difference of opinion regarding this question, consequently it must be definitely settled and it should be done entirely independent of the characters to be used. It seems to be feasible, in this connection, to indicate all sounds found in all of the languages of the world

preparatory to the establishment of a world alphabet, and from among them select those belonging to English.

Then let the ingenuity of the world be set to work as a matter entirely separate and independent from the sounds themselves to devise ways to represent these sounds both printed and written, capitals and small letters. For English alone the work should be upon two distinct lines. One based upon the Latin alphabet and an other to be the best that can be offered without restriction of any kind. Prof. A. M. Bell has originated an alphabet which he designates Visible Speech, which has decided merit. The Mormons of Utah, U. S. A. have also one which was used to some extent. Pitman's, based upon the Latin alphabet, is probably the most extensively used of any and there are several others. The poorest of them would be a great improvement upon the present twenty-six character English alphabet. The inventor of the alphabet selected should be honored by having the alphabet known by his name. After the alphabet is in existence, the work should not be considered completed until every word in the English language had been spelled in it and a standard be thus officially established.

In establishing a revised spelling the aim should be to keep the language as far from irregularities and difficult spelling as possible. The English of one part of the world varies considerably from that of an other. What is wanted is not American English nor Canadian English, but *world* English. If English is ever to become the universal tongue, as many claim, the spelling of the derived words and the grammar should be with as few variations as possible. The influence of such an alphabet would be to make the pronunciation more nearly uniform.

If an alphabet is brought into existence in the manner here briefly outlined, it would be used. Not by everybody at the outset, but the use would be rapidly extended until it became general. Many would be glad to learn and use one revised spelling who are not disposed to waste time upon anything which is acknowledged to be merely progressive, in a transition state, and not as complete and perfect as it is possible to make it. I, myself, am one of this number.

San Francisco, October, 1892.

[*Dhi* Editèr wishez tú rikòr! hiz disent from á fiú ov dhi stétments in Mr. Bancroft's ártikl. Fèrst, hí iz not sô sangwin az Mr. Ban-

croft dhat sô sún az á propèr dikshunèri shal bi publiht "the reform is accomplisht." In dhi sekund plës, if wi bürden áúrselvz widh such an inòrmus tásk az mèking á wùrld-alfábet, dhi intròdukshun ov fónetik speling intú English wil bi set bak til aftèr dhi mileniúm. Bisáidz if wi rifòrm áúr òn alfábet at wuns, dhàr iz á gúd prospekt fòr English tú bikum dhi langguēj ov dhi wùrld, in hwich kës ònli an English alfábet wúd bi ntided. Az tú dhi béis ov dhi fiútiúr alfábet, dhàr iz nò objekhshun tú eniwun wùrking at sumthing indipendent ov dhi Latin alfábet if hí chùzez tú dú sô. But dhi áidíá ov promising tú giv dhi nēm ov dhi inventèr tú dhi alfábet sílekted iz an ekstrímli pèrnishus wun, bisáidz bliing imposibl tú kari áút. Dhis imposibl onèr iz á bí in dhi bonet ov evèri fónetik krangk tú-dè, and prívents dhòz mìt-tiúál konseshunz dhat dhi mívment nídز mòr dhan enithing els dhat itz supòrtèrз kan giv. Dhi suksesfúl alfábet wil bi mèd up ov wun gúd áidíá ov wun pèrsn and udhèrз ov udhèr pèrsnz, and dhi súnèr dhis fakt iz rekognáidz dhi betèr fòr òl konsèrnd.

With dhíz fiú eksepshunz, ái ték plezhûr in ekspresing mái hárti áprtvál ov Mr. Bancroft's ártikl and mái thangks tú him fòr ráiting it.—EDITER.]

EKSPANATORI TEBL.

am	end	ill	odd	up
árm	théy	police	òld	rúde
càre	fèrn		òrb	bùrn
ásk			óbey	fúll
	ái	áú	ði	iú
chair, sharp, azhure, thin, dhen, sing.				

PETRUNZ FOR OUR LANGUAGE.

New York, Nov. 10, 1892.

Mái dtr Mr. Fernald,

. Ái thingk it iz á kráiling shēm dhat wt hú kòl áúrselvз speling-rifòrmèrз, shúd áláú dhi editèr ov OUR LANGUAGE, dhi best òrgán wt hav evèr had, tú strugl álong and publish dhi pèpèr at á pikiúnyèri los.

Tú mèk á *praktikal* propózishun: ái shal bi glad tú bi wun ov fiúti subskráiberz hú wil plej dhemselvз tú fáind náin udhèr subskráiberз evèri yir, ámáúnting widh dhàr òn subskripshun tú ten kopiz á yir, at dhi klub-rèt ov fòr dolèrз—dhi plej tú kontinyú thri yirз. Fifti such subskráiberз aded tú udhèr singgl subskripshunz òlredi on yúr list wúd, ái thingk, síkiúr yú ágenst los. Ar dhàr not fòrti-náin udhèr frendz ov OUR LANGUAGE hú ár w líng tú dú dhat much? But it iz

not inuf tú *dú* it, dhé òt tú áshtr yú ov it in advans, sô dhat yú mē *dipend* upon it.

Veri tráli yúrz,

Augustin Knoflach.

[Dhis vigèrus ápil òt tú bàr ábundánt frút. It shúrli simz posibl tú fòrm á list ov fifti pètrunz hù wil supòrt á speling rifòrm òrgán ov dhi karaktèr ov OUR LANGUAGE, in dhi wē pròpòzd. Fifti táimz ten subskriphunz at dhi klub rēt wúd bring in \$200, and widh dhis sum stkiúrd fòr thri yúrz dhi pèpèr wúd bi èbl tú mit its ekspensez until its list ov singgl subskriphunz grôz lárj inuf tú sustèn it. A niákliús fòr such á list ov pètrunz máit bi fòrmd ov dhôz hù hav sent in ten subskriphunz fòr dhi kurent volyûm, if dhé wil ágrí tú dú dhi sém fòr tú yúrz mór. Dhiz ár:

G: D. Broomell. C: P. G. Scott.

H: Holt.

T: A. Spry.

C. W. Knudsen.

Dhi risent ridukshun in dhi sáiz ov dhi pèpèr haz mēd but litl sēving, fòr kompóizishun in fónetik speling kosts mī ntrli twáis az much az in dhi ôld speling.

In òrdèr tú help subskráibèrz in mēking dhi pèpèr nōn tú dhàr frendz hù fēvèr speling-rifòrm, an ekstrá kopi and sum slips fòr enkložing in letèrz ár sent tú ich wun dhis munth. Náú let us si if speling-rifòrmèrz ár inuf in èrnest tú supòrt á láiv, prógresiv, and tráli reprizentétiv òrgán. Dú not liv òl dhi wùrk tú bi dun báí á fiú.—EDITER.]

ENGLISH OR CONTINENTAL VAUELZ.

(*Kontinyûd.*)

In the foloing artikls, aksents ar omited hwarever speling-reformèrz ar not lakli tu nid dhar help.

Dhi foloing leterz on dhis kweschun hav bin risivd.

In dhi Oktober number ov OUR LANGUAGE dhàr simz tu mī but wun rial argiument advanst in fēvèr ov Continental valyûz for dhi vauel leterz. Mr. Blackmer's udher sokòld argiuments ar mīrli eks-hibishunz ov òthoriti. Rízn 1 and 2 ònli ekspres dhi preferensez ov filolójists. It iz natyural dhat dhis smòl bodi ov veri lerned men, tu hum òl langguejez ar branchez ov dhi wun grēt trī ov human spīch, shúd dizair yunifòrniti in dhi yús ov dhi leterz ov dhi alfabet. Rízn 2 menshunz dhi Speling Reform Association az dho it wer enithing mór dhan an ekò ov dhi Philological Association, hwich it haz not bin for mór dhan ten yúrz. Rízn 4 and 5 risait dhi akshun ov dhi Geographical societiez ov England and America widh rigard tu nēmz ov plēsez. If dhi rûl kwòted iz intended tu aplai sòlli tu forin nēmz, it mē apropièrtli bi

karid aut. But Mr. Blackmer simz tu bi lúking forward tu bringing dhi thauzands ov jlografikal nēmz in America and England under dhis rûl. Iz dhi speling ov Aberdeen tu bi chēnjd tu "Aberdin," tu harmonaiz widh Fiji; and Beechwood tu "Bichwud" Must Bemus Heights bi spelt "Bimus Haits"? Must Bloomfield undergo a chēnj tu Blum-fild," and Cooperstown tu "Cuperstaun"? Shal wī spel dhi nēm ov dhi Ohio River "Ohaio"? and so on *ad infinitum*. It iz jenerali understúd dhat dhi Geographical so-saietiz intended tu limit dhàr rûl tu forin nēmz, in hwich kēs it haz no bàring hwotever on dhi reprizentēshun ov eni English wurdz, jiògrafikal or udher.

Mr. Blackmer's 6th rízn iz á referens tu dhi "Standard Dictionary." Dhis work haz not yet apírd, and hwen it duz, az an indikètor ov pronunsiēshun, it wil, ai thingk, bi mór konfiuzing tu dhi orderi siker dhan dhi orijinal speling. For dhàr ar sum leterz singgl or kombaind, hwich everi English persn hù kan rid imidiētli rekognaizez az dhi reprizentétivz ov sertin saundz. No wun hezitèts in pronaunsing *ee, ay, ah, oo*, hwail dhàr dikshuneri ikwivelents—*ē, ā, a, ōō*, ar nōn tu everi konsulter ov Webster.

In rispons tu dhi wun rial argiument, No. 7, nēmli, dhat widh Continental valyûz for vauel leterz, forinerz wúd lern tu rid English mór redili, iz it not fàr tu ask hwedher dhi nēshunz hù spik English hav no raits dhat filolójists ar baund tu rispekt? Wil it not bi far tzier for dhi komparativli fiu forinerz hù undertēk dhi studi ov English, tu lern dhat dhi valyûz ov sum ov aur leterz ar diferent from dhi pauerz dhé hav in dhàr òn tungz, dhan for òl dhi milyunz ov English pípl tu abandun dhi habitz ov alfabetik yúsej hwich ar engrēvd in dhar nētiur, kast forward in dhàr children, and enshrined in everi bók and niuzpèper in dhi land? Alexander John Ellis, linguist and profaund fonetishun, opòzd thruaut hiz laif dhi giving ov forin valyûz tu aur vauel leterz, and it iz tu bi hòpt dhat sum living filolójist will konsider dhi subjekt, and champitn dhi English-spiking pípl's rait to dhàr òn interpretēshun ov dhi alfabet.

Ai wish, hauever, to sē dhat, az á fonetishun, ai fúli rekognaiz dhi grēter simplisiti and harmoni ov dhi Continental vauel skél. Mai pli for English valyûz in rivaizd speling iz mēd bikòz, in mai opinyun, dhi fòrsing ov Continental valyûz haz grētli set bak dhi riform, and wil kontinyu to akt az á hindrans tu its advans. Ai konsider dhat dhi

propôzd chênj in vauel-leter valyûz wil bi môr difikult tu kari widh dhi English-spiking pipلز dhan a praktikal speling-riform on dhi Anglo-American plan. In dhi min taim let us ôl wurk widh gûd wil for dhi Durborow Râlz, upon dhi adopshun ov hwich speling-riformerz ar ôlmost yunanimusli agrîd.

ELIZA B. BURNZ.

It iz to bi rigreted dhat Mrs. Burnz haz endorst dhi riakshuneri polisi ov adopting dhi "English" valyûz ov dhi long vauelz. Dhi ishû iz in rialiti not bitwin dhi English and dhi Continental, but bitwin a saientifik and an arbitrerî, sistem, for dhiz vauelz hav dhi standard saundz in such English wurdz az "farm, they, pique, more, rule," and it iz just az izi tu mêk dhem dhi normal wunz az eni udher, for a riformd speling. Dhi artikl folôing Mrs. Burnz's ["Letterz for the Diphthongz," Sept. O. L.] sufishentli shôz dhi absurditi ov her plan. Under it singgl leterz *i, u*, wûd reprizent difthongz, hwail dubl leterz, *ee, oo*, wûd stand for singgl saundz. If it wer thôt wel tu sho dhi difthonggal karakter ov "long" *a, o*, dhâr wûd bi no harm in rendering dhem bai *ei, ou*. Dhâr iz ônli wun konsîvebl rizn for folôing dhi English yûsej and dhat a bad wun, sins it konfermz us in aur erônitis aidiaz ov orthografi. On dhi udher hand it puts us aut ov harmoni widh ôl under nêshunz, steriôtaipts dhi wurst anomaliz ov dhi prezent speling, and iz ônli a konfuuzd and uterli inkonsistent sistem ivn dhen.

EVACUSTES A. PHIPSON.

It simz tu mi dhat filolojists du not têk egzaktli dhi praktikal viu ov dhi imprôvment ov dhi English langguej. Dhê lûk upon it az if wi had bifôr us a mikanikal or saientifik konstrukshun hwich wi mait ôlter tu siut skolarli têts, and not a living spîch. Dhi filolojikal plan mê bi a saund saientifik method, it mê lûk perfekt tu skolarz and saientifik persnz, but dhi kweschun iz, iz it praktikal? If ôl wer skolarz dhi anser wûd bi obviûs, but everi wun nôz dhê ar not. Iz it tu bi supôzd dhat dhi English-spiking wurd wil ever chênj its prezent speling so far az tu yûz Continental vauel valyûz, hwen everi yûzer (or il-yûzer) ov English objekts tu dhi most moderet chênj? Insted ov asking English-spiking pipلز tu chênj dhâr vauel valyûz, hwai not rikwest linguists and raiterz ov udher langguejez tu yûz aur vauel valyûz?

So far az ai hav egzamind propôzd planz for a môr saientifik speling, ai thingk dhi Anglo-American standz dhi best chans ov sukses.

A. B. LENNOX.

Dhi editer iz priparing an artikl suming up dhi argiuments dhat hav bin brôt aut in dhis diskushun and inklôding sum udherz, hwich wil apîr nekst munth. No môr leterz kan bi printed unles dhê kontên argiuments dhat no wun haz yet givn.

FORIN NIUZ.

—A propozishun having bin mêd tu prizent an adres tu Mr. Isaac Pitman on hiz êtieth birthdê, Janyuêri 4th, 1893, hi haz sugjested az a substitiût dhat dhôz hû wish tu mârk dhis aniverseri shal mêl aplikêshunz for membership in dhi Speling Leeg dhat hi haz risentli propôzd, at such taim dhat dhê shal rich him on dhi abuv dêt. Dhi entrans fi iz wun shiling and dhâr ar no dûz after dhat. Everi member wil risiv a kard ov membership and wun paund ov speling-riform literetiur for distribution. Memberz agrî tu yûz riformd speling on konvinyent okêzhunz Dhi editer ov OUR LANGUAGE wil transmit aplikêshunz akumpanid bai 25 sents dhat rich him bifôr Dec. 23rd.

—*The Gentleman's Magazine* for November kontênz a fôr-pêj artikl, bai James Hooper, on "Amperzand."

FONETIK FORMZ IN YUS.

—H: S. Chase, M. D., haz publisht thru dhi Purdy Publishing Co., 168-170 Madison St., Chicago, a bûk entaitld "The Dignity of Sex." It iz divaided intu thrî parts, ov hwich Part II. iz in "Six Rule" speling.

—A kontribyuter tu *Garden and Forest* haz tû artiklz in risent numberz under dhi taitl "Shongum," hwich iz fonetik for dhi nêw ov dhi Shawangunk mauntinz in New York stêt.

—In Ogust last a skûl woz establisht in New York under dhi pêtronej ov dhi Syrian Society, konsisting ov piûpilz from fôr tu twenti yîrz ov êj, hû spôk litl eksept Arabic. So far dhi instrukshun haz bin givn bai sum lédiz interested, az dhê kûd faind taim tu atend. Mrs. Burnz tûk a wûman hû spôk no English, and widh an averej ov an auer'z lesn twais a wik, mêd her êbl tu rid widh ekselent pronunsiêshun 50 pèjez ov dhi "Step by Step Primer," in tû munth. Dhi translêshun ov ich sentens iz givn tu her thru a Syrian gerl hû haz lernd tu spik English.

—No niû subskripshunz wer rîstvd in November and 11 ekspaired, so dhat dhi hól number haz dropt tu 159.

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Webster's International Dictionary iz dhi ôthoriti on pronunsiêshun folôd bái dhis pêper.

EKSPANATORI TEBL.

am	end	ill	odd	up
ârm	thêy	police	ôld	rûde
càre	fêrn		ôrb	bûrn
âsk			ôbey	fûll
	ái	áú	òì	iû

chair, sharp, azure, thin, dhen, sing.

ENGLISH OR CONTINENTAL VAUELZ.

(Konklûded.)

A kàrfûl egzaminêshun ov dhi ârtikl dhat ôpend dhis diskushun disklôzez ônli wun rîzn in fêvêr ov dhi English váuel skêl, nêmlî, dhat it iz áúr ôn. Mrs. Burnz klênz dhat it iz veri much áúr ôn, sêing dhat it iz "ground-

ed in the very nature of the language," and dhi sêm áidlá iz rîpited in sêrtin emfatik frêzez ov hêr sekund ârtikl. Dhis klêm kan not bi admitted. Dhàr iz nuthing in dhi nê-tiûr ov eni langgwêj dhat mêks dhi karaktêr e ôr dhi karaktêr i môr siûttêbl tú reprizent á givn sáund dhan eni udhêr karaktêr. Ôl dhat kan bi sed iz dhat dhi English váuel-kêlz is yûzd náú in English and haz bin yûzd fôr á long táim, dhô hwen áúr Anglo-Saxon ansestêrz bigan tú yûz dhi Roman alfâbet dhê yûzd it widh dhi Continental valyûz.

Mrs. Burnz's sekund ârtikl iz mênli á rîplái tú Mr. Blackmer and kontênz ônli wuz adishunál ârgûment on hêr ôn sáid, but it in wun dhat dîzêrvz sîrîus konsidêrêshun. Shî afêrmz dhat á rîfôrm on dhi Continental bêsîs wûd bi hârdêr tú kari áút dhan wun on dhi English bêsîs.

From udhêr ráitingz ov Mrs. Burnz áí hav lèrnd dhat á thêrd rîzn hwái shî advókêts dhi English váuel-skêl iz dhat it givz á stáil ov spelling dhat kan bi red tîzli bái pèrsnz hû âr akustumd tú dhi ôld spelling, and sô if yûzd bái children ând udhêrz hûz edyûkêshun had gôn ônli sô far az rîding and ráiting in fônetik spelling dhàr letêrz kûd bi red bái eni wun.

On dhi sáid ov dhi Continental valyûz wî hav fêrst dhi rîznz advanst bái Mr. Blackmer. Mrs. Burnz's objeksîun tú sevêrál ov dhîz dhat dhê âr sáitêshunz ov ôthoriti radhêr dhan ârgûments, iz á pòint wel tèkn. Yet such sáitêshunz hav dhàr signifikáns. Dhi fakt dhat ôl dhi lèrnêd sósáitîz dhat hav dî-váizd sistematik môdz ov spelling hav adopted dhi Continental skêl, if not an ârgûment in itself, at list shôz dhat ârgûments egzist hwich privêl widh skolêrn.

Wun ov Mr. Blackmer's argüments iz admitted báí Mrs. Burnz tú bí valid. Dhis iz "á fónetik speling ov English widh dhi Roman valyûz ov dhi váuelz wil enébl ðl forinèrz mór kwikli tú ákwáir it." Shí objekts, háúevèr, dhat leting dhis rizn wé widh us wúd bí fèvèring dhi forinèr at dhi ekspens ov áúrselvz. On dhi kontrèri it iz tèking kàr ov áúr ðn intèrests in dhi móst selfishli kalkiúlèting manèr. Evèri yîr severál hundred tháúzánd imigránts há dâ not nò English kum tú America. Dhi slónes widh hwich meni ov dhem bikum Americanized haz bin pòinted áút táim and ágen az á dènjèr evèr thretning áúr institúshunz. Iz it not, dhen, impòrtánt fòr us tú mèk áúr langgwéj izièr fòr dhi forinèrz tú lèrn, sò dhat thrò riding áúr niúzpèpèrz and báks dhé mè mór rapidli ákwáir áúr áidíáz and habits ov thòt? It iz impòrtánt fòr dhi Anglo-Saxon rès dhat forinèrz há rínnèn at hóm shúd ólsò lèrn English izili. Hîr ágen áúr langgwéj kariz áúr habits ov thòt, and in its trèn folòz dhi substanshál benifit ov an ekstended forin komèrs.

Mr. Lennox áks hwái not rikwest dhi Continental píplz tú ádopt dhi English valyûz? Dhi ansèr iz dhat hwen wí chènj áúr speling tú mèk it fónetik, wí shúd fáind veri litl trubl in ádopting dhi Continental váuelz at dhi sém táim, hwàraz it iz not láikli dhat hálf á duzn píplz kúd bring dhemselvz tú intródiús áúr váuel-skèl hwen dhàr langgwéjèz ár sò nîrli fónetik dhat dhé hav nò udher okèzhun fòr chènjing dhàr speling.

A sekund argüment iz fúrnisht báí dhi fakt tú hwich Mr. Blackmer kòlz atenshun dhat in bóth England and America dhi speling ov forin jîógrafikál nèmz iz náú bíing rifòrmed on dhi Continental bésis. Dhi advantèjèz ov internashunál ágriment ár sò grèt dhat nò rítrít from dhis pòzishun mè bí ekspektèd in eni ívent. If wí shúd rifòrm ðl udhèr wúrdz on dhi English bésis wí shúd bí óbláijl tú yûz tú váuel skèlz. Wí ár yûzing bóth náú tú sum ekstent, and it iz a frútfúl sòrs ov misprónunsièshunz, hwich wí ðt tú get rid ov. Such misprónunsièshunz ov Latin wúrdz ár rifèrd tú bai Mr. McKinlay and Mr. Werner.

Prof. Knohach adz á thèrd argüment, hwich iz dhat lèrning forin langgwéjèz wúd bí much izièr fòr English-spiking stúdents and pèrsnz engèjd in forin komèrs if dhé wèr akustumd tú yûzing in dhàr mudhèr tung dhi sém vauel-valyûz dhat dhé fáind in udhèr langgwéjèz.

Dhi fakt dhat dhi Continental vauel-skèl iz *mór sistematik and konsistent* dhan dhi English iz a fòrth argüment in its fèvèr. Mr.

Williams and Mr. Phipson spesifai sum ov dhi kontrádkshunz in dhi English nóteshun ov simpl vauelz and difthongz, and Mrs. Burnz frangkli admits dhi sùprioriti ov dhi Continental skèl in dhis ríkpekt.

A fifth argüment iz dhat fónetik speling widh English valyûz woz mèl ridikyúlus bai Artemus Ward and Josh Billings a jenerèshun agò and iz bíing yûzd konstantli az a mårk ov ilitèrésai bai daialekt raitèrz at dhi prezent táim. Thèrfòr, a riform on dhi Continental bésis wúd bí much mór redili akseptèd az a sritüs and intelijent èfòrt tú betèr aur langgwéj dhan wun hwich haz such embarrassing asósièshunz.

From dhi fòrgóing sumèri it aprtz dhat dhi argüments fòr dhi English valyûz ár fíthèr dhan thòz fòr dhi Continental; dhi fòrmèr ár ólsò ov les wèt. Urjing dhat dhi English vauel-skèl bí kept simpli bíkòz it iz English iz nuthing els dhan an apll tú sentiment and históri—just such az aur opònts yûz ágenst dropping sailent letèrz and ðl dhi udher chènjez dhat rifòrmèrz ár wårking fòr. It iz just laik a plí fòr ritèning English wèts and mezhúrz az ágenst dhi metrik sistem, ðr in fèvèr ov dhi English muni-tèbl az ágenst desimal kòinèj. German rifòrmèrz há ár púshing dhi chènj from Gothic tú Roman letèrz áf opòzd on just dhi sém graund.

Az tú hwedhèr a riform on dhi English bésis wúd bí izièr tú intródiús wí must konsid dhat bai meni pèrsnz it wúd bí mór izili undèrstúd hwen dhé fèrst apròch dhi subjekt, but fúrdhèr studi iz laikli tú bring móst ov dhem óvèr tú dhi Continental said. Dhat Mrs. Burnz iz a konspikyúüs eksephun duz not invalidèt dhis rál. Dhi ditèlz on dhi rifòrm áf not tú bí setld bai dhi inekspérienst ðr dhi unedyúkèted; dhi klasez há hav móst tú dâ widh speling—dhi raitèrz, prjntèrz, tiehèrz, and filolójists—wil bí lúkt tú az ekspèrts tú disaid dhiiz matèrz, and dhi rest ov dhi pípl wil simpli akwiès in dhar disizhun. Dhar iz gúd rizn tú biliv dhat dhiiz klasez wúd chûz dhi Continental valyûz. Az Mr. Fitch pòints aut, dhiiz valyûz áf kwait famillyâr tú ðl klasez, in meni English wúrdz and in a gróing numbèr ov natyúraláizd forin wúrdz, tú hwich mè bí aded such trèl nèmz az "Vaseline," "Pearline," etc., and hens wúd bí akseptèd widháút much opòzishun. Btsáidz, náin-tenths ov ðl speling-rifòrmèrz at prezent áf opòzd tú dhi English skèl, and niú konvèrts mè bí ekspektèd tú ték sáidz in dhi sém pròpòrshunz; widh such opòzishun èfòrts tú advans dhi English valyûz kan hav nò hóp ov sukses.

Dhi thèrd àrgüment for dhi English val-yûz kúd aplái ònli tú dhi shòrt táim ov dhi tranzishun period, at mòst. Az a matèr ov fakt it wúd not aplái ivn dhen. Háf edyú-kèted pèrsnz hav tú much práid tu wàr á baj ov dhár smòl aténments in publik. Dhè wúd idher gò thrú dh ídrujèri ov lèrning tú spel in dhi konvenshunál mòd òr dhè wúd not ráit at òl. Ivn dhi nigròz in Africa, Dr. Welch telz us, dimand "hwait man'z speling," and wí mè bí shúr dhat in America, sèrtinli, hwar evèri wun thingks hí haz a ráit tú dhi best ov evèrithing, nó ló-kást speling wúd bí tolerèted.

And nau it mè bí hòpt dhat òl ridèrz ov OUR LANGUAGE hù wèr in dáút bífór hav bin konvinat báí dhis diskushun dhat dhi Continental vauei-skèl shúd hav dhár supòrt. It iz tú bí hòpt òlsó dhat dhi prónásúnst opónents ov dhi Continental valyûz, kíng háú fíú ár dhàr àrgüments and háú smòl dhàr numbèrz, wíl bí pèrswèded tú sís dhàr hòples opózishun, só dhat áúr fórsèz mè nó longgèr bí wiknd báí á divizhun on dhis kweschun.

KORESPONDENS.

Ai hav long had dhi áidítá in máí máind ov á *komparativ tèbl ov fónetik alfabets* in hwich òl dhi d.fèrènt sklmz ov dhi vèritús ríffòrmèrz shúd bí shòn on wun pèj, só az tú bí tziil studid and kompàrd. Kúd yú get up such á wun? It wúd bí á valyûsèbl fityûr ov OUR LANGUAGE, áí thingk. N. J. WERNER.

[Dhis iz á gúdl áidítá, and áí hav udhèrz in máind dhat áí shúd bí glád tú kari áút in O. L., but dhè òl involv ekstrá ekspens hwich áí dñ not fíl láik inkúring só long az áí am kariing on dhi pèpèr at á los. Ai shúd láik tú ishú fòr ekstrá pèjèz ích munth ov sum children'z klavik, láik "Mudhèr Gús" òr "Robinson Krúsó" in fónetik speling in such á fòrm dhat dhi pèjèz kúd bí báúnd hwen komplít. Ai shúd láik, òlsó, tú publish dhi èrli históri ov speling-ríffòrm, and hwot such men az Ben Jónson, Benjamin Franklin, and William Whewell hav sed in its fèvèr. Dhiz thingz kúd bí dun íf háf dhi avásúd speling-ríffòrmèrz in America wúd ích subskráib fòr wun kopi ov dhi pèpèr.—EDITOR.]

[Aksepts ar omited in dhi foloing artikis hwarever spelling-ríffòrmers ar not laikl tu uid dhar help.]

Dhi Ferst Petrunz.—Several gratifáing responsez tu Prof. Knoflach's apíl in dhi last number hav bin risívd. Az kwik az dhi mèl kúd bring it, kèu ten dolèrz from Mr. Spry,

hwich kontinyûz hiz prezent subskripshun for tu yírz mòr. Olmòst az sún, a letèr woz risívd from Mr. Boss in hwich hí agríd tu ték ten kopis for dhi nekst yír, klòs after dhat kèu twelv dolèrz from Mr. Knudsen, hwich pèz in advans for ten kopiz for thrí yírz, and Mr. Lyon haz pèd wun yír in advans. Hù wíl bí dhi nekst? Widh a lítl mòr such ko-opèrèshun az dhis wí kan bí shúr dhat speling-riform wíl kontinyu tu hav á vigerus and libèral organ.

Ai disláik tu ask for mòr help dhan dhi pèpèr aktiuali nídz or mòr dhan riformèrz kan aford tu divót tu dhi suport ov an organ, so áí hav dun sum figguring and hav fáúnd dhat dhi ekspensez ov OUR LANGUAGE for Volyûm 3 wíl probabli bí \$210. Dhàr ar 75 kopiz tékn singgli or báí tu'z and fòr subskráibèrz ték 5 kopiz ích at dhi klub-rèt; asíuming dhat dhi subskripshunz wíl òl bí riniud dhè wíl bring in \$45.50. If tu dhis bí aded dhi subskripshunz ov 30 pètrunz dhi inkum wíl bí \$165.50, líving á difishensi ov les dhan \$50. Az áí am wiling tu kontrib-yut dhis amáúnt ích yír áí shal bí satisfáid íf onli 30 persnz join in dhi speshal subskripshun propòzd báí Prof. Knoflach.

—Óing tu á misték in dhi number ov kopiz printed dhi ekstra kopi ríferd tu last munth kúd not bí sent tu evèri subskráiber. Dhòz hù did not risív it wíl risív an ekstra wun dhis munth.

—*The Leader* for November kontènz rez-olushunz past báí dhi Southern Kansas Teachers' Association hwich kòl upon dhi mèmberz ov Congress from Kansas to ask for dhi apointment ov á komishun on speling-riform.

—Prof. Knoflach iz stil gèning fresh tráiumfs for dhi rí-speling method ov tiching ríding. Sins Oktober hí haz bin dhi regyuler instrukter ov dhi bíginèrz in ríding at á fash-unèl práivèt skúl in New York siti, yúzing hiz "Sound-English Primer." Dhis iz espe-shali gratifáing níuz, for such skúlz ar yúzhualí veri konservetiv in dhár methodz.

—Dr. F. A. March haz pripàrd á serkiuler tu bí sent tu editèrz ov kolej and akademi pèpèrz, urjing dhem tu yûz in dhàr publi-kèshunz dhi amended spelingz rekomended bai dhi Philological Association and printed in dhi apendiks tu dhi Century Dictionary.

—A pèpèr on speling-riform red báí Mrs. E. B. Burnz at dhi anyual míting ov dhi New York State Stenographers' Association, at Saratoga, Aug. 27th, woz publisht in *The Phonographic Magazine* for Oktober.

—Messrs. Funk & Wagnall's "Standard Dictionary" wil admit dhi hól list ov "Philological" spelingz and dhi niu spelingz ov kemikal termz tu alfabetik entri in its mên vokabyuleri.

Prof. T: F. Norton kontribiuts tu *Science* ov Nov. 11 a tu-pêj artikl on "The Spelling and Pronunciation of Chemical Terms," giving dhi rîns ov dhi komiti ov dhi A. A. A. S. for dhi risent chênjez.

—Bak numberz ov OUR LANGUAGE from dhi bigining kan bi suplaid.

—A klas ov forti piupilz in dhi "Workingmen's School," karid on báí dhi Society for Ethical Culture, in New York, iz yŷzing dhi "Step-by-Step Primer." A suplái ov dhi bók haz bin bôt for an Italian skúl in Toronto and anudher lot for dhi yŷs ov Skandinavian setlerz in dhi northwest.

—Hon. Allan C. Durborow, hŷ introdiust dhi siks-rúl speling-riform rezolushun intu Congress last winter, woz rî-ilekted báí over 11,000 majoriti in a distrikt yŷzhuali karid báí dhi oposít parti. Dhi speling-riformerz voted for him and sertainli kontribyŷted tu Mr. Durborow's magnífisent tráiumf.

—A kopi ov dhi Durborow rŷlz woz sent risentli tu Mr. Brander Matthews, and hŷ rôt konserning dhém: "Of the six suggestions, only the fifth" [substituting *f* for *ph*] "seems to me premature, the other five ought to be adopted at once. Such influence as I hav shal be exerted in their favor."

—Under dhi táitl "Spelling-Reform Methods," *The Boston Transcript*, ov Dec. 17th publisht an artikl giving a jeneral akáúnt ov dhi wurk ov dhi filolojikál sôsáietiz.

—In Disember, êt subskripshunz ekspáird, tu ov hwich hav bin riniud báí Mr. Boss, living dhi total number in fôrs 153.

—Dhi nênz ov A. B. Lennox, W: Boyd, and dhi editer wer sent tu Mr. Pitman for dhi Speling Leeg, Dec. 23d.

—Iowa College at Grinnell, Iowa, nau ishŷz a "Catalog" insted ov a "Catalogue." Gúd for Iowa! Dhi former speling iz ôlso grôing in fêver widh laibrêrianz.

—Prof. Bayley Balfour, in dhi *Annals of Botany* kôlz upon saientists tu spel "cocoa" coco, az it iz speld in French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian, and az it woz ôlwêz speld in English til Dr. Johnson gêv hiz sangkshun tu dhi iregyular speling "cocoa."

—A desperêt*atempt haz bin mêd tu bring dhi niuz up tu dêt in dhis number, but sum thingz must go over til nekst munth, az yŷzhual.

Diphthongz.—In O. L. for September dhi editer stêted hwot hŷ bilivz tu bi dhi viuz ov a majoriti ov riformerz in rigard tu dhi rep-rizentêshun ov difthongz. It woz not konvin-yent tu kôl for diskushun at dhat taim, but if eni riderz dissent from dhi konklŷzhun dhàr stêted dhê kan nau hav an oportuniti tu bi herd.

FORIN NIUZ.

—At dhi miting ov dhi British Association for the Advancement of Science last sumer, riform in dhi speling ov Oriental and Gaelic nênz ov plêsez woz advokêted.

—A risent and valyŷd adishun tu mai ekschênj list iz *Typo*, a taipografikal jurnal publisht bai R. Coupland Harding, at Wellington, New Zealand. Mr. Harding iz an untairing advokêd ov simplifaid speling.

—Mr. Isaac Pitman's siriz ov faiv fonetik riding-búks iz to bi ekstended tu twelv.

—Dhi method ov tiching forin langguejez widh dhi êd ov fonetik speling in dhi erli lesnz iz grôing in fêver. *Le Maître Phonétique*, dhi organ ov dhi Phonetic Teachers' Association, mêks itself a valyŷêbl asistant tu dhôz hŷ yŷz dhis method bai printing riding eksersaizez, spelt fonetikali, in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Swedish, and Portuguese. It iz ishŷd bai M. Paul Passy, 6 rue Labordère, Neuilly, Seine, France.

—A saientifik pamflet, printed in dhi riformd Spanish speling dhat iz biing urjd in Chile, haz kum tu hand risentli. It iz bai Luis L. Zegers, profeser ov fiziks in dhi Yuni-versiti ov Chile.

—Dhi kworterli buletin ov dhi French Sosaieti for Orthografik Riform ripôrts konsiderêbl ajitêshun for a riform in French speling. M. Carré, inspekter-jeneral ov skŷlz, haz an artikl on dhi riform ov speling, in dhi edyukêshunal jurnal *Le Volume*; sum taim ago M. A. André, on distribyuting dhi prazez at dhi lycée ov Toulon, tŷk Orthografi az dhi subjekt ov hiz adres; and M. Eugène Monseur haz begun a siriz ov artiklz on dhi riform ov French speling in dhi *Revue Universitaire*, a Belgian jurnal.

Our Language.

DEVOTED TO

SPELING-RIFORM NIUZ AND DHI DISKUSHUN OV KWESCHUNZ IN ALFABETIKS.

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Webster's International Dictionary iz dhi ðthoriti on pronunsiēshun folōd báí dhis pēper.

EKSPANATORI TEBL.

am	end	ill	odd	up
árm	thēy	police	ôld	rūde
càre	fèrn		òrb	bùrn
ásk			óbey	fáll
	ái	ású	ði	iú
chair, sharp, azhure, thín, dhen, sing.				

DHI FAIV DIBETEBL VAUELZ.

I. (á) and (ó).

In ákòrdáns widh dhi intenshun eksprest lást Ogust dhi ónli rīmēning kweschun az tú dhi numbèr ov sáúndz dhat shúd bî disting-gwisht in fōnetik speling wil náú bî tékn up fòr diskushun. Speling-rifòrmèrz ár díváided az tú hwich; if eni, ov dhi folōding fáiv váuelz shúd hav plēsez in dhi rifòrmed English alfábet, nēmli, dhōz in "càre, fèrn, bùrn, ásk,

óbey." Nò wun tú máí nolej própōzez tú inklūd dhēm òl.

Dhis ártikl iz dívōted tú á and ó. Both dhíz váuelz ár disting-gwisht in dhi alfábets ov dhi Spelling-Reform Association, Bell, Mott, and Lockling, and á áptrz òlsò in dhōz ov Phipson, Collings, and Story (st O. L. fòr Jún and Jíulái, 1892; "Háú meni Váuelz and Difthongz"). Dáúttles tú meni lóial mem-bèrz ov dhi S. R. A. dhi fakt dhat leterz ár prówáided fòr dhíz sáúndz in dhi alfábet ádopted báí dhi lîdèrz ov dhi Association iz ínuf tú setl dhi kweschun. But hwáil dhis alfábet iz sèrtinli á valyúēbl pls ov wùrk it nîd not bî rigárded az tú sēkred fòr kritisizm. It woz mēd báí men tú hūm fáin disting-kshunz in vókál sáúndz áz az plēn az bròd dif-èrensez áz tú pèrsnz ov nò filólójikál trēning. Hens it iz not láikli tú lak eni sáúnd dhat á praktikál alfábet shúd hav, but máit tend tōárd òvèr-rifáinment. Dhis tendensi iz shón, áí thingk, in ríspekt tú á and ó.

Nuthing kúd bî betèr dhan dhi prinsipl konsèrning fáin disting-kshunz hwich woz lēd dásún in dhi rîpòrt ov dhi komiti dhat mēd dhi S. R. A. alfábet. It iz dhis: "An alpha-bet intended for use by a vast community need not attempt an exhaustive analysis of the elements of utterance, and a representation of the nicest varieties of articulation; it may well leave room for the unavoidable play of individual and local pronunciation." It iz in ákòrdáns widh dhis prinsipl dhat sum sáúnds hwich ár mārkt in standárd dikshunèriz áz not inklūdēd in dhi alfábet ov dhi S. R. A. Dhi é in "senēt" iz diferent from dhi ê in "él," and iz sò mārkt in Webster's Dictionary, but dhi komiti ráitli dísáided dhat it iz not

inuf diferent tú nid á separèt karakter in òrdinèri fónetik speling. Dhi fòrmèr sáund iz simpli é in an unaksented silábl. Evidentli dhi sém disizhun woz méil kónsèrning dhi t in "tvent" and dhi t in "tv," hwich iz á parálel kës. Dhàr iz just dhi sém diferens, òlsò, bitwin ó and ô, hens if nò distingkhun iz nided in dhi prístiding kèsez nun iz nided hfr.

Dhàr ár tú yúsez fòr á. Wun iz in unaksented silábl, az in "sófá, fáinál," hwich iz á parálel kës widh ó and shúd bí dispòzd ov in dhi sém wé. Dhi sekund iz in meni monó siláblz, e. g. "ásk," az prónáunst báí sum, but not òl, gúd spikèrz. Webster sez ov dhis váúel, "The sound is one which many persons have not ear and vocal organs so trained as to appreciate." It iz, thèrfòr, wun ov dhi náisitiz ov ártikyólèshun hwich dhi ábuw ról ov dhi Philological Society's komitt shúd hav eksklúded from its alfábet. Dhis sáund iz diskráibd báí Webster az dhi "wáid" korelèt ov é, az ó iz ov ô, hens in òrdinèri speling it mé bí reprizented báí dhi sém letèr widh sufshent akyûrésí.

Dhi rest ov dhis ártikl wil ilustrèt fónetik speling in hwich dhi sáundz ov bòth á and â ár reprizented báí á and ov bòth ó and ô báí ô.

Dhi alfábet ov dhi S. R. A. woz mэд in 1876, and dhàr iz gód rizn tú biliv dhat if it wèr tú bí riváizd—ívn báí substansháli dhi sém komitt dhat mэд it—dhi eksplèrens ov dhi pást 16 yírz wúd kòz á numbèr ov chènjez tú bí mэд, ámung dhem bling dhi droping ov dhi váúelz diskust ábuw. Tú bí shúr, tú long váúelz wúd dhus bí left widháuít shòrt mèts, but áí hóp nò wun wúd rigárd dhis az enithing dredfúl. Hwái must dái English langgwéj bí spelt widh íkwál numbèrz ov "long" and "shòrt" váúelz? and hwái must dhi váúelz ov á fónetik alfábet bí printed in tú kolumz, lák dhi kupl in á Virginia ril, sò dhat dhi lak ov á pártner iz mэд az glóring az píbl?

Fónetik speling widh òl fáiv ov dhi díbet-ébl váúelz haz bin ilustréted in dhi lást fòr numbèrz ov OUR LANGUAGE; dhi ridèrz ov dhis péper náú hav bífòr dhém á shòrt sampl widháuít á and ó. If nò konvinsing árgúments in fèver ov ritèning dhiz tú váúelz ár bròt fòrwárd, dhé wil bí dropt thróáuít dhi péper at dhi btgining ov Vol. 3. Tú sèw much ráiting ov letèrz, sáilens on dhi párt ov ridèrz wil bí tékn fòr konsent.

—Dhi *Hamilton (Canada) Spectator*, 9th Desember, riports dhi riding ov á péper on speling-riform at dhi Hamilton Association, báí Mr. James Ferres.—*Phonetic Journal*.

[Aksents ar omited in dhi foloing artiklz hwæver speling-riformers ar not laikli tu nid dhar help.]

Akshun bai dhi Modern Language Association.—Díuring dhi holidèz dhi Modern Language Association of America held its tenth anyual konvenshun, in Washington, and á part ov its prístidings woz dhi pasing ov á rezólúshun in fèver ov speling-riform. Dhi Association iz dívoted tu kritikal studi ov dhi modern langgwéjez and dhàr literatiurz, and its membership konsists ménli ov profe-erz in kolejez and instrukterz in sekunderi skúlz. Dhi tekst ov dhi rezólúshun folòz:

Resolved, That the Modern Language Association of America unite with the Philological Society of England and with the American Philological Association in recommending the joint rules for amended spelling and the alphabetical list of amended words published in the transactions of the American Association and in the Century Dictionary.

Helping Handz.—Tú mór frendz ov OUR LANGUAGE—D. Kimball and Mrs. Burnz—hav subskráibd fòr 10 kopiz ích ov Vol. 3. Dhàr ar náú sevn hfr hav dun dhis, and áí hóp dhat hwen dhi níú volýúm biginz, tú munths from nau, dhi fúl list ov 30 pètrunz wil bí mэд up. Tú sin 551 subskripsihunz wer ristvd in Janyueri méking dhi totál náú 155.

A Plea for using the English Demotic Alphabet in Amended Spelling. Báí C. W. KNUDSEN. 38 p., S. Dhu òther, South Norwalk, Conn. No práis.

In dhis pamphlet Mr. Knudsen sets fòrth mór fúli dhan in hiz erlier publikèshunz dhi riznz fòr dhi véritus fityurz ov hiz Demotic Alphabet. Dhi alfabet woz formd in 1883, bling bést upon dhi konkurent viuz ov dhi mórjoriti ov 90 korespondents. It rekognáizez 24 konsonants, hwich ar reprizented az in dhis péper, eksept dhat both *c* and *k* ar yúzd, dhi preferens bling givn tu dhi former. Á markt *th* iz inklúded, òlsò, az an íkwivalent fòr *dh*. Thertín simpl váúelz and fòr dithongz ar rekognáizd, á, ù, á, and ó, not bling distinggwisht. Mr. Knudsen aksepts dhi prinsipl ov dhi S. R. A., dhat long váúelz mé bí distinggwisht báí dáiakritiks, but báí an injinyus diváis lí méks síks karakterz du dhi wurk ov ten. Hí haz á separet táip, kòld dhi "longus," hwich mé bí plèst after eni váúel, and haz dhi efekt ov á mèkrun. Dhi váúelz ar párd az in dhi S. R. A. alfabet, eksept dhat *u* iz rigarded az dhi short ov *ô* and iz reprizented báí *o*. Mr. Knudsen sakrifáizez

simetri and konsistensî môr dhan most riform-erz wûd for dhi sêk ov prizerving dhi old aptrans ov wurdz; dhus hî reprizents tû dif-thongz, áí and iû, báí singgl leterz, and dhi udher tû báí dhi sáinz ov dhàr elements. Dhis iz dáútles dhi rízn for hiz ritëning both *c* and *k*, and dhi sêm dispozishun iz sîn in hiz maner ov yûzing dhi alfabet. Hens dhi yûs ov *ô* for dhi sáund ov *u* in "up" stînz tu bî a strénj dipartyûr from hiz setld polisi. Fáiv niu leterz ar inklûded in dhi Demotic alfabet, nêmlî, for *o*, *ê*, *è*, *ái*, and *iû*. Mr. Knudsen's pamflet kontênz a fonetik "Manual Alphabet" (for miûts), a pronáúnsing vokabyûleri ov skriptiûr proper nênz, and a list ov abrviêshunz.

FINGGER OR FINGER?

Chicago, 19 D 92.

Mr. F. A. FERNALD:

Dear Sir,—Prof. Richard Green Moulton, dhi Englishman hî iz so prominent in Yuni-versiti Eksten-shun, iz lektiûring in Chicago. Wun ov dhi pikiûliarítiz ov hiz pronunsiêshun iz dhat hî ráimz "finger" with "singer." And yesterlê, az áí waz ridîng from William Morris's risent bûk, "The Story of the Glittering Plain, etc.," áí fáund dhat hî haz dun dhi sêm—sí p. 62, Roberts Bros. edishun. Háú far duz dhis pronunsiêshun privêl in England? It mê bî a surváival ov dhi German pronunsiêshun ov dhi sêm wurd.

O. C. BLACKMER.

[Akording tu dhi dikshunêriz—Nuttall, Stormonth, dhi Imperial, and Murray's—dhis pronunsiêshun duz not privêl at ðl in England. It mast probablî bî set láún tu personal pikiûliariti in wun kês and tu poetik láisens (hwich kuverz a multiûd ov sinz) in dhi udher.—
EDITOR.]

ANUDHER JURNAL IN LAIN.

It haz bin sed dhat "Speling-riform iz in dhi àr," dhàr ar ðlso sáinz dhat it iz matríal-áizing veri rapidli. Dhi folînz iz from wun ov dhi best kondukted ov children z pèperz, *The Pansy*, for Disem'ber, publisht báí dhi D. Lothrop Co., Bost'n.

SPELLING REFORM.

Here is our list of eight words. Study them carefully until you become familiar with their look. I do not think I would use them much, as yet, lest people should suppose you did not know how to spell; but it is well to make their acquaintance. Probably before you are men and women many of them will have come into common use. Indeed two of

them can be found now, in the columns of *The Independent*, and several other leading journals.

Present way.	Proposed change.
Liabl.	Liabl.
Know.	No.
Heart.	Hart.
Earth.	Erth.
Incense.	Incens.
Through.	Thru.
Though.	Tho.
Love.	Luv.

It wil bî notist dhat dhi simplifikêshunz ov hwich dhîz wurdz ar tipikal involv meni ov dhi Joint Rules. "Liabl" and "incens" drop fáinal miût *e* after a short vádel; "thru" and "tho" omit dhi yûsles *ogh* and *ugh*; "hart" and "erth" abandun dhi yûs ov a dáígraf tu dinôt a short vádel. Dhi bihedind and kurtêling ov "know" iz veri radikal, ang shôz dhat dhi etimolojikál argûment haz litl wêl widh *Pansy's* editêr. "Luv" iz in harmony widh "cum" and "sum," hwich ar orthodoks spelings akording tu dhi speling-riform doksi in dhi Century Dictionary. 'Tiz kuming; yes, 'tiz kuming.

ELIZA B. BURNZ.

—A notebli injînyus and skolarli stáil ov pronáúnsing print haz bin diváizd báí Rev. James W. Shearer, ov Birmingham, Ala. Báí dhi êd ov a niû sistem ov dáíakriks it shôz hwot leterz ar sáilent and indikêts dhi sáund ov everi udher leter. Mr. Shearer anáúnzez a bûk on "The Science of Alphabets" and a "Combination Speller" tu aprt shortli, ðlso a "Pronouncing Testament" and ádher rilijus bûks in preparêshun, and in váits subskrip-lînnz. Fudher partikyularz in hiz deskriptiv serkiûlar.

—Dhi *Porter County Vidette*, publisht at Valparaiso, Ind., báí Talcott & Welty, iz dûing valyuêbl wurk for speling-riform báí printing "Publik Skûl Aitemz and udher paragrafs in fûl fonetik speling. In sum udher artiklz and niûz áitemz it yûzez such amend-ed formz az "tho', thro', hî', mi't, tau't, wil, wer, wo'd, sho'd," etc. For dhi last tû, "wu'd" and "shu'd" or "woud" and "shoud" wûd sîn preferebl. Dhis pèper iz ðlso ilustretîng vêritûs stáilz ov fonetik print, ov hwien dhôz in smôl táip ar tu bî priferd. Dhi wuh in larj táip haz several pàrz ov leterz so ntr aláik dhat tû much efort ov dhi áí iz rikwáird tu rekognáiz dhem. Dhi *Vidette* haz just enterd upon its fiftieth yîr.

Difthongz—a Rimonstrans—Dhi folðing leter woz risivd bitwín dhi printing and dhi méling ov dhi Janyueri O. L.

Ai *du wish* yu kúd fáind sum wê tu ekspres f in “fine” widháút yûzing “ái,” ū widháút “iû,” ow widháút “áú,” etc. A persn *kan* pronásúns dhôz sáúndz so slóli az tu so distort dhém, but tu máí írz enerjetik spích snaps áút f, ū, ow, az klír sharp singgl sáúndz, widh no mór chéng in dhi pronunsiéshun dhan in w or y, b or v. Shúd not dhi efórts ov lang-gwej molderz bí in dhi direkshun ov such simplisiti ov sáúnd dhat òl mé understand and uter dhém, radher dhan tóardz supersensitiv analisis dhat puts dhi pronunsiéshun biyond dhi vokal organz ov eni but a trénd elokiúshunist. Unles dhi sáúndz ar simpl and ízili spókn pípl wil drift awé intu dáialekts. So it simz tu mí dhat simplisiti minz prezervéshun—kompleksiti, destrukshun. D. KIMBALL.

[Dhi Germans hav had long ekspíriens widh reprizing dhi difthongz áí (ei and ai), áú (au), and òi (eu) báí dhi sáinz ov dhàr elements, and áí du not fáind in ídher dhi German fonetik péper, *Reform*, or in dhi organ ov dhi Phonetic Teachers Assoc. eni dispoziashun tu chéng tu singgl leterz. Dhis fakt shúd hav wét widh us. Dhi forméshun ov dáialekts iz not much tu bí fírd amung a pípl dhat haz so meni nítzpéperz and rélródz az dhi English rês.

Dhi kòl for argúments on dhi sáid ov singgl leterz for difthongz, printed last munth, haz bròt no rispons. Ekspreshunz ov agríment widh dhi editerz stétment ov dhi kês in September wer risivd from J. A. Kidder, O. C. Blackmer, and wun udher hítz leter ai kan not náú fáind, in dhi kòrs ov dhat munth. Dhi sáilens ov meni udher ríderz mé òlso bí fárlí tékn for konsent. Eizak Pitman rôt mí not long ago dhat dhi last chéng hí méd in hiz alfabet woz dropping singgl leterz for difthongz. Dhis woz dun in 1880, after 36 yírz ov eksperimenting.

Eni rider hí iz opózd tu dáígrafs for difthongz iz urjd tu send in hiz rizns bifór dhi nekst ishu.—EDITER.]

—In dhi *American Art Printer* for November, Mrs. Burnz had an artikl stétting dhi níd ov a yuníform mód ov marking English pronunsiéshun in edytúkeshunal wurks and propózing a modífikéshun ov Webster's dáia-kritiks for dhis purpus. Meni ríderz wúd bí glad íf dáia-kritiks wer yúzd widh dhi sém mún-ingz báí òl leksikograferz and udher òtherz, and it iz sumhwot surpráizing dhat dhi filolo-

jists hav never tékn up dhis mater. Webster's yúsej máit du for a starting point, but it iz not sistematik and therfór not ízi tu rimember. Mórover it iz not íkonomikal for printerz and táip-fáúnderz, az sum ov dhi “dikshuneri” sortz dhat it rikwáírz ar not kut for meni fonts ov táip. Everi font konténz æ and œ; if it iz intended for “búkwurk” dhi fáúnder wil bí ébl tu suplái æ, è, i, ò, ū, òlso dhi “French aksents,” á, ê, í, ó, ū, à, è, ù, é, and probabli dhi “Spanish aksents,” á, é, í, ó, ú. Hwái kúd not dhíz karakterz bí yúzd for marking dhi sáúndz ov English insted ov rikwáíring dhi fáúnder tu kut and dhi printer tu báí stíl udherz?

—Dhi U. S. Bureau of Education haz ishúdt a smòl chart giving dhi “Rules for the Spelling and Pronunciation of Chemical Terms” adopted báí dhi American Association for the Advancement of Science, in 1891.

—An interesting and valyúébl péper on “Uniformity of Geographic Nomenclature,” báí Mr. D. Martin Ferreiro, ov dhi Spanish Hydrographic Office, haz bin transléted and iz publisht az a pamflet báí dhi U. S. Hydrographic Office.

—*Le Maître Phonétique* menshunz a búk on dhi Rivizhun ov Speling and dhi French Akademi, báí A. Coty, hwích haz just bin publisht báí Firmin-Didot.

—OUR LANGUAGE iz bíng sent regyúlarli tu dhi láibrériz ov forti-wun normal skúlz and six udher láibrériz, dhi kopiz dhus sent bíng dhi ekstra wunz pèd for báí subskráiberz and left for dhi editer tu distribyút.

—Dhi editer begz òl frendz ov dhis péper tu rífrén from asking him tu print mór dhan wun sampl ov eni speshal stáil ov riformd speling. Hí filz dhat hí iz sufíshentli liberal in printing fríli òl shédz ov opinyun konserning dhi riform, and in ilustréting eni propózd fonetik skím *wuns*, and, dhàrfor, dhat hí shúd not bí ekspektet tu kari induljens tu an ekstent áwích hí bilílvz wúd ínjúr dhi yúsfulnes ov dhi péper.

—A fúl akáúnt ov dhi rimarkabli aktiv karir ov Stephen Pearl Andrews apírz in *The Phonographic Magazine* for Jan. 15, akumpanid báí a portret and spesimenz ov hiz tû stáilz ov fonetik speling. Mr. Andrews woz wun ov dhi ferm that publisht dhi *Anglo-Sacsun*—dhi ferst fonetik péper publisht in America. Hiz speling woz bést on dhi Continental váfel-skél, and emplòid dáia-kritiks.

Our Language.

DEVOTED TO

SPELING-RIFORM NIUZ AND DHI DISKUSHUN OV KWESCHUNZ IN ALFABETIKS.

PUBLISHT MUNTILI, AT 3 BOND ST., NEW YORK.

FREDERIK A. FERNALD, EDITER AND PUBLISHER.

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Kontributed artiklz and leterz wil bi speld in dhi stāil ov dhi pēper, but spēs wil bi givn for wan ilustrēshun ov eni udher propōzd fonetik skīm.

Webster's International Dictionary iz dhi dthoriti on pronunsiēshun folōd bāi dhis pēper.

EKSPANATORI TEBL.

am	end	ill	old	up
ārm	thēy	police	ōld	rūde
cāre	fērū		ōrb	būrn
				fūll
āi	āú	ōi	iū	

chair, sharp, azhure, thin, dhen, sing.

A blu X on dhi raper ov dhis number shoz dhat yur subskripshun haz ekspaird. Dhi editer wud laik tu hav ol ekspaird sul s kripshunz riniud promptli.

— *The Methodist Advocate-Journal*, ov Chattanooga, haz publisht in risent numberz ēt pīez ov speling-riform mater, furnisht bai Mr. James Rogers.

DHI FAIV DIBETABL VAUELZ.

II. (á) and (ó) not wōnted.

Aparentli dhi tū sāundz diskust lāst muntth hav nō frendz āmung dhi rīdērz ov OUR LANGUAGE, fōr nō wun haz ritn tū dhi editēr in supōrt ov dhār klēmz tū bi inklōded in dhi rīfōrmd alfābet. Mōrōvēr, sevērāl rīdērz hav eksprest dhi opōzit ōpinyun mōr disāidedli dhan bāi dhi sāilens hwich givz konsent.

Mr. A. B. Lennox rāits: "in rīgārd tū á and ó. Dhiz sāundz sīm tū obskiūr tū nīd sepārēt sāinz, and nō unsērtinti shūd rizult from reprēnting dhēm rispēktivli bāi dhi sāinz fōr dhi vāuel sāundz in 'ārm' and 'ōld.'"

Tū ōr thri muntth āgō Mr. L. Lyon eksprest hiz ōpinyun dhat in ōrlinēri printing dhiz vāuelz kūd bi dispenst widh, and dhi udhēr thri dībētābl vāuelz ōlō. In dikshunēri wūrk, ov kōrs, dhē ōl wūd bi rīkwāird. Mr. James Rogers haz sed dhi sēm.

Dhi fōlding woz rīsīvd from Mr. James M. McKinlay: "Ai thingk wī kan get along veri wel widhāut dhiz letērz. Stil ai am not shūr abāut it, az it wūd nīd sum praktis tū sī hāū it wūd dō. Hāūevēr, ai wūd not yūz 'ā' az yū hav yūzd it in dhi lōēr haf ov dhi fērst kolum on pēj 66. Ai wūd yūz it ōnli hwār dhi 'ā' sāund iz undāutēdli yūzd, and nevēr hwār dhi sāund iz mīrli dhi haf-wē wun bitwin 'man' and 'far,' ōr dhi unaksented 'a' ov 'sōfa, fainal.' Ai wūd rait, 'rīvaizd, bai, substanshali, past, amung, vāuelz, ikwal, alfabet.'

Ai nōtis dhat yū print 'lāibrēri, dikshunēri, ordinēri.' It sīnz tū mī dhat dhi unaksented 'a' in dhiz wōrdz iz not at ōl laik 'ē' and dhat 'a,' or ivn 'e' wūd bi betēr dhan 'ē.'"

In òrdèr tú fùrnish dhi praktis in yûzing an alfâbet widhâut "á" and "ó" hwich Mr. McKinlay trôli sez iz nîled bîfôr disâiding dhis kweschun, dhi prezent numbèr ov O. L. iz printed widhâut dhem. In difens ov mâi yûzing "â" and "ê" in unaksented silâblz (lâikwâiz "i," "ô," and "û," tú hwich Mr. McKinlay duz not têk eksepshun) âi hav ônli tú fôl bak upon dhi International dikshunêri. In dhat wûrk dhi "a" in "past," "amung;" etc., iz diskrâibd az folôz: "This vowel is to be clearly distinguished from ä (äm). In organic position it lies between this and ä (ärm); but in quality as well as position, more nearly resembles the latter. It is the wide correlate of ä (ärü), and is naturally shorter." Dhi "a" in ordinary," etc., iz diskrâibd az "a modification of the preceding vowel [ä] in syllables without accent; wider, ranging between ä and ä." If âi giv up yûzing â sepârêr sâin fôr "ä," it simz tú mi dhat âi ôr tú yûz dhi sâin ov dhi vâüel hwich it "more nearly resembles" insted, and having nô sepârêr sâin fôr unaksented "ê," âi ôr tú yûz dhi sâin ov dhat vâüel ov hwich it iz "a modification." If dhi ridèr ônli rimembèr dhat hi iz not ôblâijd tú giv "â," and "ê" in unaksented silâblz az fûl â sâünd az dhê hav in aksented silâblz, just as hi duz not giv dhi fêrst vâüel in 'bihôld, prôpel, rûtin' az fûl â sâünd az in 'bting, pôni, rûrâl,' âi thingk nô trubl wil bi fâünd widh mâi speling. Stil, dhis matèr konsèrnz not dhi *konstrukshun* but dhi *aplikêshun* ov dhi alfâbet, and âi am wilîng tú liv it az an open kweschun fôr dhi prezent.

It nâü âpirz dhat dhi ônli supôrt fôr "á" and "ó" iz dhi fakt dhat dhê âr inklûded in dhi alfâbet ov dhi American Philological Association. But dhis alfâbet duz not reprizent dhi ôpinyunz ov ôl filolôjists. Henry Sweet, hû haz mêd fônètiks â speshâlti môr dhan eni udhèr English-spiking filolôjist, iniûmerêr, in hiz "Primer of Phonetics," 15 vâüelz and 4 difthongz in English spîch, not inklûding "á" or "ó."

If nô impòrtânt ârgûments in fêver ov dhi vâüelz âr bròt âut in dhi kôrs ov dhis munth dhi kweschun wil bi rigarded az klôzd.

[Aksents ar omited in dhi foloîng artiklz hwarever speling-reformèr ar not laikli tu uid dhar help.]

KORESPONDENS.

Selly Oak, England.

Dhi alfabet yu hav adopted simz tu mi about az nîr perfêkt az it kan bi mêd widhâut *dhi yûs ov adishunal karakterz*, yet âi thingk *yu wûd imprâv it bâi emploîing ê insted ov â in "dhâr, kâr;" i insted ov i in "dhi,IGIN;"*

e insted ov i in "sèrtin;" dispensing widh dhi dâierisis in "strîts;" substituting è for ê in "kontrêri;" e for ê in "lunêsi;" i for y after a konsonant, az in "natyûral;" iû for û in luminus;" ll for l in "hóli" (wholly); êlso abolîshing ù az âidentikal widh è. Yu ar râit in pointing aut dhat for ordinari yusej dhi aksents wil not bi rikwâird eksept in kêsez hwâr dhâr iz â posibiliti ov konfiuzhun, az in "not, nôr, nôr." Yûr speling iz at list az simpl az dhat ov eni udher modern lang-gwej, and korespondz widh dhi skedyûl adopted bâi dhi jîografikal sosâitiz.

Az yu hav frikwentli riferd tu dhi riformd speling ov Oriental wurdz it mê bi wel tu giv egzamplez ov sum amung dhôz dhat ar best nôn, in order tu familiyâiz yur ridèr widh dhâr niu form. Amung komon nâünz âi wil giv: kûli, musulmân, bedawin, sheikh, sultân, khediv, jangal, chirût, bakhshish; and ov proper nênz: Hindûstân, Tibbat, Barmâ, Bangâl, Kashmir, Lakhnau, Sûdân, Khârtûm, Sâwâkin, Beirût.

EVACUSTES A. PHIPSON.

[Dhi vâüelz à and ù ar tú ov dhi 'dibêtabl vâüelz' sâin tu bi thurôli diskust. Az tu mâi yûs ov i in bigin, ê in 'kontrêri, lunêsi, etc.,' si dhi riplâi tu Mr. McKinlay. Ai agri dhat 'sèrten' reprizents dhi best pronunsiêshun ov dhis wurd, but having adopted Webster's dikshuneri fôr mâi ôthoriti, âi du not diviêt from it. Ai reprizent 'long u' bâi 'yû' hwen it biginz â silabl, and bâi 'iû' els-hwar; e. g., 'nat-yû-ral, yûz, liûminus, miût.' If âi rôr 'luminus' in an erlier number it woz an inad-vertens. Wi wil hav â diskushun about dubld or rîpted konsonants sum taim. Ai am glad tu hav egzamplez ov dhi sistematik English speling ov East Indian wurdz.—
EDITER.]

J. A. STUART.—Risît ov tâip iz aknolejð. Ai wil set up â sampl paragraf widh it bîfôr long.

—Post Ofis muni orderz fôr subskripshunz shûd bi mêd pêabl at Station A, New York. Wun sent stamps wil bi risivd in sumz ov fifti sents.

—*The Lafayette*, from hwich dhi akâünt ov dhi Anthropological Society's konferensez in dhis number iz têkn, iz â wel edited magazin publisht bâi dhi stiudents ov *Lafayette College*, Easton, Pa. It prints abstrakte ov dhi adresez bâi Profs. March and Owen, in adishun tu dhi mater âi hav kwoted. *The Lafayette* iz printed in akordans widh the Joint Rules, and iz dhus ernîng dhi oner ov bîing wun ov dhi pâiunîrîz in dhi skolarli rev-olûshun ov speling-rîform.

ANTHROPOLOGISTS DISKUS AMENDED SPELING.

The Anthropological Society of Washington haz held thri suksesiv konferensez, Disember 20, 27, and Janyueri 3, on dhi kweschun "Iz simplifaid speling fizabl az propôzi bai dhi English and American Philological Societies?" Dr. F. A. March, at dhi inviteshun ov dhi sosaiiti, diliverd dhi opening adres. Dhi Librarian of Congress, Hon. A. R. Spofford, folôd widh a pêper on dhi biutiz ov English and dhi rong ov loping of a leter ov dhem. Dhen dhi U. S. Commissioner of Education, Hon. W. T. Harris, gëv an impresiv arê ov skål fakts in fêver ov simplifaid speling. Asst. Secretary Willets, ov dhi Agricultural Dept., diskraibd hiz wôz. Dhi kemists, he sez, ar sending in riports widh 'sulphur' speld 'sulfur.' That mait du fôr dhi lerned jentlmen, but hwot wil dhi farmerz thingk ov an Agricultural Dept. dhat don't no hau tu spel? It woz nau ten o'klok, and dhâr wer môr pêperz and much interest. Dhi hòl woz krâuded and meni eminent persnz prezert. It woz ditermind tu kontinyu dhi simpôzium in an ekstra miting.

At dhi sekund miting A. M. Bell, dhi Darwin ov fonetishunz, Pres. J. M. Gregory, U. S. Educational Commissioner to Europe, and Prof. W. B. Owen, ov Lafayette College, mêt adresez in fêver ov dhi riform; and Pres. Gallaudet, ov dhi Deaf-Mute College mêt an adrês agensit it.

Dhi simpôzium woz agen ajurnd. At a therd miting Prof. L. F. Ward, ov dhi Geological Survey, and Vice-Pres. ov dhi sosaiiti, Mr. E. T. Peters, Major J. W. Powell, Director of the U. S. Geol. Survey and ex-Pres. ov dhi sosaiiti, mêt adresez in fêver ov simplifaid speling, and Mr. Spofford red anudher biutiful pêper on hiz saïd. Grêt interest woz manifested in dhiz diskushunz, and az a rizult it iz lâikli dhat sum digri ov amendment wil bi brot intu yûs in dhi publikeshunz ov dhi Anthropological Society. —*The Lafayette.*

Subskripshunz.—In Februeri tâ subskripshunz ekspâird and fôr wer ristvd, living dhi total number 157. Dhi number ov pêtrunz haz bin inkrist tu 9 bai Messrs. Henry Holt and C. P. G. Scott rinifing dhâr subskripshunz for anudher volyûm. Dhis munth dhi grêter part ov dhi kurent subskripshunz ekspâir, and dhi editer wil bi èbl tu lern in dhi nekst fiu wiks hau much suport OUR LANGUAGE iz tu hav diuring dhi kuming yîr. It duz not sim lâikli dhat dhi list ov 30 pêtrunz kôld for bai Prof. Knoflach wil bi sikiurd, and dhi editer haz akordingli disâided

upon anudher mezhur ov ikonomi. Dhis pêper wil riturn tu moderetli amended speling in dhi ferst number ov dhi niu volyûm. Setting dhi tâip for dhiz fôr pêpez in fonetik speling kosts \$5 a munth môr dhan in speling similar tu hwot printeiz ar akustumd tu. Sins so larj a sêving kan bi mêt in dhis wê it simz best tu mêt it. Dhi "Joint Rule" speling ov dhi Philological Societies wil bi emploid in preferens tu dhi editerz "final forms" stâil hwich woz yûzd up tu siks munths ago. Dhi Joint Rules ar niutral grâund for riformerz ov òl shêdz ov opinyun, bisâidz âi hav bin ashûrd bai several frendz ov O. L. dhat dhi pêper kan du môr gûd in dhat speling dhan in eni udher.

—Dr. Hamilton, ov Toronto, yûtez a printed leter-hed in hwich hi shôz hiz kulerz in dhi wurd "Telefone."

—Mr. G. E. Melliff iz kondukting an edyukeshunal di,artment in dhi Lockhart (Texas) Register. Hi inserts dhi "Printers' Rules" in a risent number, and anâunsez dhat hi shal folo dhem in hiz di,artment.

—Dhâr iz tu bi a Wurld's Congress of Stenographers at Chicago in dhi wik bigining Julai 17th, and amung dhi subjekts tu bi diskust iz dhi rilêshun ov short-hand tu dhi "great movement toward spelling-reform and a universal language."

—*The Phonographic Magazine* for Feb. 15 prints a portret ov Prof. Alexander Melville Bell, widh an akaunt ov hiz wurk in elokiushun and short-hand. Prof. Bell haz also lêberd in dhi fild ov speling-riform, having publisht a skim ov fonetik speling under dhi nêrn ov "World-English." Hi iz nau living in Washington, D. C., at dhi èj ov 74.

Dhi Chicago Miting.—Dhi miting ov dhi Speling Reform Association dhis yîr iz tu bi held at Chicago, on Thurzdê, 13th Julai. Dhâr az a gûdli number ov riformerz in and nîr dhat siti, and if memberz hu intend tu vizit dhi Columbian eks-hibishun wil arênj tu bi dhâr on dhi abuv dêt, dhi S. R. A. kan hav a larjer and môr reprizentetiv asemblej dhan it haz had in meni yîrz. Dhis simz tu bi a fêverabl oportuiniti fôr a rivâival ov interest in dhi wurk ov dhi organizeshun, and both ofiserz and memberz shûd pripâr tu têk advantêj ov it. Dhi riform mûvmènt iz grêtli hamperd bai disagriments amung riformerz, and dhis miting mait wel bi yûtilâizd bai memberz ov opozing fakshunz tu mêt nôn hau much ov unpraktikal aidial or personal ambishun dhâr ar wiling tu sakrifais for dhi gûd ov dhi kôr.

Continental Valyuz.—An artikl in opozishun tu dhi Continental vauel skél haz bin risivd from Mr. Joseph A. Stuart. Oportuniti tu diskus dhis kweschun woz givn fôr fôr munths, and ai fil shûr dhat a larj majoriti ov dhi riderz ov dhis pêper du not wish mî tu giv eni môr spês tu it at prezent. Mr. Stuart prizents a niu argument, nêmlî, dhi waid yûs ov English az kompâra widh dhi Continental langguejez.

On dhi udher hand, Mr. J. Rogers raits: "Ai am konverted! Wî must Americanize aur imigrants. Let us welkum òl forinerz widh a fûl fonik alfabet, old leterz having valyuz tu hwich dhê ar akustumd." And fâdher Pitman diklârz dhat ai hav bin "sléing dhi slên," fôr, hî sez, dhis kweschun woz setld in fêver ov Continental valyuz in England 40 yîrz ago, also dhi mater ov *k* radher dhan *c*, and dhi setlment "haz never bin dispiuted." But America iz not England. Fiu riformerz in dhis kuntri niu dhi standing ov dhis kweschunz bîfor it woz brot aut in OUR LANGUAGE, and dhi arguments *pro* and *con* wer not aksesibl hîr until dhê wer put on rekord in dhis pêper. Dhi fakt dhat wun riformer haz diklârd himself konverted bai it iz prûf pozitiv dhat aur diskushun haz not bin yûsles, and givz rîzn tu biliv dhat it haz had influens upon meni hu wer undisaided or uninformd. Ivn Mrs. Burnz and Mr. Lennox, hî advo-kêted dhi English valyuz, hav intimeted sins dhi diskushun klôzd dhat dhê dîm dîtz valyuz mor esenshal fôr dhi tranzishun period dhan fôr a fainaliti.

FORIN NIUZ.

—The Speling Leeg, menshund in Disember woz formd Jan. 4th, widh Prof. F. Max Müller ov Oxford az prezident and Eizak Pitman (adres, Bath, England) az sekriteri. A list ov memberz and a suplimenter list hav bin publisht in *The Phonetic Journal*, kompâraizing 190 nênz. Dhâr ar 5 memberz in dhi U. S. and Canada.

—*Le Maître Phonétique* riports dhat dhi Belgian sekshun ov dhi Société de Réforme Orthographique haz just publisht its ferst bûletin. It haz 370 memberz and simz tu bî fûl ov lûif and viger.

—Mr. Pitman raits, Jan. 24th: "Ai hav risivd tu-dê from Sydney, N. S. W., kopiz ov serkiularz, notisez ov short-hand and tâip-râiting skûlîz, ov a Soshal Leeg, etc., fâiv *separet* pêjez, for jeneral serkiulêshun, in *riformd* speling. This iz dhi wê tu popyular-âiz dhi riform!"

An Address to the Friends of Education.—Bâi Prof. J. C. ZACHOS. 45 p. D. Dhi ôther, Cooper Union, New York. No prâis.

Stâilz ov pronaunsing print—i. e., môdz ov indikêting dhi saund ov everi leter in ordineri speling—ar bikuming niumerus. Wun iz diskraîbd in dhi abuv nêmd pamflet, publisht in Ogust, 1891, hwich haz just bin bròt tu mâi atenshun. Prof. Zachos divôts dhi grêter part ov hiz pamflet tu seting forth dhi ekstent and dhi fvlz ov iliteresi in dhi United States. Hî dhen telz hau grêtli dhi strikt aplikêshun ov dhi fonetik prinsipl fasilitêts lerning tu rid, and diskraîbs hiz môd ov produsing a pronaunsing print, giving several pêjez ov samplz. Dîi komon speling rimênz unchênjd. Wurdz ar divâided intu silablz and aksent iz dinoted bâi dhi yûzhual mark. Rûlîz ar givn hwich enêbl dhi rider tu tel dhi saund ov a leter in most kêsez from its pozishun in dhi silabl or from dhi leterz dhat prisid or folô it. Prof. Zachos haz suksided in bringing a surprâizingli larj part ov English speling under rûl For dhi kêsez dhat kûd not bî dhus grûpt dâiakritiks ar emplotid. Sâilent leterz ar printed in Italic. Dhi sistem kan bî izili masterd bâi an intelijent adult, but wun mê kweschun hwedher it wûd bî beter for dhi yûs ov a châild or an averêj iliterêt dhan a sistem hwich emplotiz dâiakritiks tu dhi eksklûzhun ov rûlîz.

—Mr. Halsey V. Fitch risentli mêd an eksperiment widh a tranzishun môd ov speling, dizâind tu lid up tú dhi S. R. A. print, and arâivd at dhi konklûzhun dhat "a tranzishun skim woz not so much nîded az sum mât thingk."

Mr. J. Rogers raits: "A komplît fonik alfabet iz âur gôl. Dhi shorter dhi tranzishun tu it, dhi les konfiuzhun in literetiur. Dhi nid ov kiping up rizemblans tu old print haz bin grêtli overstêted. Americans du not têk kâindli tu dhi kôch-bodi-lâik kompartments in English rêlwê trênz. Let us hav dhi solid-vestibiuld thru kar az sîn az posibl.

—Dhi "Printers'" (Durborow) siks rûlîz for amended speling hav bin publisht in dhi *Woman's Illustrated World*, ov New York, at dhi rikwest ov Mrs. Burnz. Dhi editer sez in a nôt folôing dhem: "We are truly in favor of simplifying English orthography, if it can be done without too sudden a disruption of existing business methods." Dîtz rûlîz aprt also in *The (New York) World Almanac* for 1893.

Our Language.

DEVOTED TO

SPELLING-REFORM NEWS and THE DISCUSSION OF QUESTIONS IN ALFABETICS.

Publisht Munthly, at 3 Bond Street, New York,
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The amended spellings jointly aproved by the English and American Philological Societies and publisht as an apendix o the Century Dictionary ar followd in this paper.

Contributed articles and letters wil be speld in the stvle of the paper, but space wil be givn for one illustration of any uthr proposed fonetic scheme.

A blu X on the wrapper of this number means that your subscrip-tion has expired. The editor hopes that all expired subscriptions wil be renewd promptly.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR.

The second year of OUR LANGUAGE, including the winter of 1892-93, has not been markt by any *conspicuous* advances of the spelling-reform. It has been characterized, however, by a great progress of reform sentiment beneath the surface of public opinion, where its roots hav been ramifying far and wide. Evidence of this has cropt out on every hand. In the erly munths of 1892 the varius bills in the interest of spelling-reform that had been introduced into Congress wer made subjects of serius and generally favorabl comment by newspapers and uthr jurnals in all parts of the United States. Erly in 1892, also, apeard a report of Dr. W. T. Harris, U. S. Commissioner of Education, in which both the Commis-sioner and Dr. L. R. Klemm, one of his

special agents, gave emfatic testimony in regard to the burden which English spelling imposes upon children in lerning to read. Spelling-reform has also been made the subject of papers red before teachers' and uthr literary societies in the United States and Canada. The simplification in chemical terms recommended by the American Association for the Advancement of Science hav been favorably receivd by chemists, and hav been adopted in a number of scientific jurnals and new books. The Chicago Typothetæ printed the report of its annual banquet according to the "Printers' rules," and several printing-trade jurnals hav adopted this spelling for parts or all of their contents. The systematic spellings of geographical names proposed by the Royal Geographical Society, of England and the U. S. Board on Geographic Names hav made gratifying progress. Mercantil firms hav uzed singl wurds, like "catalog," or hole paragraphs in fonetic spelling in their advertisments. *Harper's Magazine* has publisht an articl in defense of "American" and uthr simplified spelling, by Brander Matthews—the first one on this subject that has ever apeard in that widely circulated periodical. Golden opinions hav been won for fonetic spelling as a stepping-stone in teaching children and foreiuers to read the ordinary print. The Southern Kansas Teachers' Association has past resolutions in favor of a comission on spelling-reform to be apointed by the guv-ernment. The Modern Language Association has declared in favor of the amended spelling of the Philological Societies. Artcils in favor of more or less simplifica-

tion of English spelling hav appeared in *The Popular Science Monthly*, *The Boston Transcript*, *The Pansy*, *The Church Union*, and *The Woman's Illustrated World*, in addition to many in jurnals alreedy known to be favorabl to the cause. In England, Eizak Pitman has been abl to obtain over 200 members for a new Spelling Leeg within a few munths, and news of good wurk has cum to us from New Zealand and Australia. We hav been cheerd, also, by reports of good progress made by reformers in France, and of attempts toward a reform of Spanish spelling.

OUR LANGUAGE has continued to be the only spelling-reform jurnal giving the current thought and news of the reform with promptness and regularity. During the year it has carried on valuabl discussions in regard to the number of vowels that should be represented in the reformd alphabet, the proper mode of representing diphthongs, and whether the English or Continental vowel-scale should be accepted. Two proposed schemes of fonetic spelling wer illustrated in the July and August numbers, and general articles in the interest of the reform hav been publisht from time to time. The general language department, which had proved to be an expense that the paper could not bear, insted of a source of help, was suspended in the midl of the year. At the same time a fully fonetic mode of spelling was adopted in the hope that this radical course would obtain a wider popularity for the paper amung reformers. This has proved to be another mistake, for in the past six munths the subscription list has ceast to grow and has decreast from 170 to 157. The incum of the paper for the hole year has fallen far short of paying its expenses. It is not wurth while to extricate the overlapping accounts of the past two years; the editor's loss for the hole period has been \$322.72. In view of these facts, he has thought that his radical friends would pardon him for the retreat from his advanced spelling made in this number, which wil lessen his loss for the cuming year by \$60. It is hoped, also, that the same change wil win the favor of sum who can see no good in any spelling-reform wurk unless it follows the lead of the Philological Societies. To the teachers and college professors, stenografers, doctors, clergymen, lawyers, merchants and uthers who constitute the subscribers of OUR LANGUAGE, the editor *givs his harty thanks*. The paper has now

been put upon a strictly economical basis, and its supporters shal not be weard by any more apeals for increast support. If no unfavorabl change in its affairs takes place, the editor wil be abl to carry it on in its present form indefinitely.

The Joint Rules of the Philological Societies.—The following ar the twenty-four Rules for Amended Spelling jointly recommended for imediate use by the Philological Society, of England, and the American Philological Association:

1. e.—Drop silent *e* when fonetically useless, as in *live, vineyard, believe, bronze, single, engine, granite, eaten, rained*, etc.

2. ea.—Drop *a* from *ea* having the sound of *ë*, as in *feather, leather, jealous*, etc.

Drop *e* from *ea* having the sound of *a*, as in *heart, hearken*.

3. eau.—For *beauty* uze the old *beuty*.

4. eo.—Drop *o* from *eo* having the sound of *ë*, as in *jeopardy, leopard*.

For *yeoman* write *yoman*.

5. i.—Drop *i* of *parliament*.

6. o.—For *o* having the sound of *u* in *but*, write *u* in *above* (*abuv*), *dozen, some* (*sum*), *tongue* (*tung*), and the like.

For *women* restore *wimen*.

7. ou.—Drop *o* from *ou* having the sound of *u*, as in *journal, nourish, trouble, rough* (*ruf*), *tough* (*tuf*), and the like.

8. u.—Drop silent *u* after *g* before *a*, and in nativ English words, as *guarantee, guard, guess, guest, guild, guilt*.

9. ue.—Drop final *ue* in *apologue, catalogue*, etc.; *demagogue, pedagogue*, etc.; *league, colleague, harangue, tongue* (*tung*).

10. y.—Spel *rhyme* *rime*.

11.—Dubl consonants may be simplified: Final *b, d, g, n, r, t, f, l, z*, as in *ebb, add, egg, inn, purr, butt, bailiff, dull, buzz*, etc. (not *all, hall*).

Medial before another consonant, as in *battle, ripple, written* (*writn*).

Initial unaccented prefixes, and other unaccented syllabls, as in *abbreviate, accuse, affair*, etc., *curvetting, traveller*, etc.

12. b.—Drob silent *b* in *bomb, crumb, debt, doubt, dumb, lamb, limb, numb, plumb, subtle, succumb, thumb*.

13. c.—Change *c* back to *s* in *cinder, expence, fierce, hence, once, pence, scarce, since, source, thence, tierce, whence*.

14. ch.—Drop the *h* of *ch* in *chamomile, choler, cholera, melancholy, school, stomach*.

Change to *k* in *ache* (*ake*), *anchor* (*anker*).

15. d.—Change *d* and *ed* final to *t* when so pronounced, as in *crossed* (crost), *looked* (lookt), etc., unless the *e* affects the preceding sound, as in *chafed*, *chanced*.

16. g.—Drop *g* in *feign*, *foreign*, *sovereign*.

17. gh.—Drop *h* in *aghast*, *burgh*, *ghost*. Drop *gh* in *haughty*, *through* (thru), *though* (tho).

Change *gh* to *f* where it has that sound, as in *cough*, *enough*, *laughter*, *tough*.

18. l.—Drop *l* in *could*.

19. p.—Drop *p* in *receipt*.

20. s.—Drop *s* in *aisle*, *demesne*, *island*.

Change *s* to *z* in distinctiv words, as in *abuse* verb, *house* verb, *rise* verb, etc.

21. sc.—Drop *c* in *scent*, *scythe* (sithe).

22. tch.—Drop *t* as in *catch*, *pitch*, *witch*.

23. w.—Drop *w* in *whole*.

24. ph.—Write *f* for *ph*, as in *philosophy*, *sphere*, etc.

The rules appear as above in the "Proceedings of the American Philological Association," for 1883, and any version at variance with this is not what the societies actually agreed upon. These rules will govern the spelling of OUR LANGUAGE in future. This is far from being an advanced position for a journal published solely for spelling-reformers, but so long as a large number of the reformers refuse to yield one jot of their personal opinions for the good of the cause, no spelling-reform organ can advance in any direction without sacrificing the good will of those who want it to go in some other direction. We must have a more conciliatory spirit, and a disposition to consider other standpoints than our own. In this we may properly look to the philologists to take the lead, as they have undertaken to do in selecting the successive steps of amendment. *Noblesse oblige*.

FOREIN NEWS.

A report recommending important simplifications of French spelling has been made by the committee on the dictionary of the French Academy, through its chairman, M. Gréard. The object given for such simplification is to make learning the language a more logical process, and to facilitate its use by foreigners. The following changes are proposed: To dispense with capitals in common nouns that do not begin sentences; to write certain phrases, like "eau-de-vie," without hyphens, as "eau de rose" and some others are written now; to dispense with the circumflex accent and systematize the use

of the grave and acute; to drop the apostrophe in compound words like "entr'aider"; to spell words taken from foreign languages according to the French pronunciation of them, which is done now in some cases, e. g. "bifteck," but not in others, e. g. "break"; to restrict final silent *e* so far as possible to feminine nouns; to make no difference in the spelling of a word because of its position, e. g. "demi-heure" and "heure et demie"; to simplify the orthographical "Chineseries" of "tout" and "même," which occupy six columns of the Academy's dictionary; to spell the plural of naturalized Latin nouns according to the French mode; to dispense with *y* when it is pronounced like *i* and to replace it by a diæresis when it is pronounced like double *i*; where one of two vowels standing together is silent, to drop it, thus "sœur" would become "suer" and "paon" "pan"; to simplify consonants standing together by twos and threes and representing no sound; to substitute *f* for *ph*; to systematize the spelling of words that have a single letter in primary forms and double it in derivatives, or *vice versa*; to spell adjectives now ending in *ent* with *ant*; to change *x* to *s* in plurals and in the inflection of certain verbs. The report contains also some recommendations in regard to grammar and the vocabulary of the dictionary. It is being much discussed in the French journals.

—At the end of the second chapter in Capt. Mahan's "Admiral Farragut," recently published by D. Appleton & Co., appears the following: "NOTE.—The spelling Chile (instead of Chili) used in this chapter is that adopted by the U. S. Board on Geographic Names, appointed by President Harrison, Sept. 4, 1890, to settle a uniform usage for the Executive Departments of the Government."

—The editor has changed his printer and hopes to get the paper out more promptly than heretofore. The issue should be mailed by the 7th of each month. When OUR LANGUAGE was started it was printed from new type, and now it has the good fortune to be printed from new type again.

—A. J. Pierce has a two-column article on the need of spelling-reform, in the February number of the *Northern Farmer* (Grand Forks, N. D.) Mr. Pierce is one of the "men of [18]76," and his article is like a Dakota blizzard for strength and freshness.

DISCUSSION ON DIPHTHONGS.

There seems to be more disposition to discuss the proper mode of representing diphthongs than at first appeared. Three communications on this subject were received in time for the March number, but the necessary space for them was lacking. The first was written in reply to Mr. Kimball's letter in February and will also serve as a reply to the one agreeing with Mr. Kimball's, which follows it.

To the Editor of OUR LANGUAGE.

Sir:—That "the four proper diphthongs" as vocal glides from the first element of each to the second is not theory but fact. It can be tested by the action of the vocal mechanism. The sounds can not be made with the vocal organs in a fixed position. They can be made only while these organs are passing from one position to another. The passage is quick, yet not too quick to be distinctly noted. For the first of these sounds the speaker puts his vocal organs in the *a* position, and during the emission of vocalized breath changes them to the *i* position. For the second, during the emission of vocalized breath, he moves his organs from the *a* position to the *u* position. For the third, the passage is from *o* to *i*, and for the fourth it is from *i* to *u*. True, indeed, "a person can pronounce those sounds so slowly as to distort them"; and we sometimes do so for purpose of illustration; yet, in my opinion, however energetically these sounds are "snapped out" there always is, and must be, this change of position in the organs of voice. To represent them by the signs of their elements is consistent with the fonetic principle.

Some persons will not agree with me as to what the elements are. Some prefer *ai* to *ai*, and *ou* to *au*. Eliza Pitman represents the first, by *ei*, and I have heard it so pronounced, with the *e* as in "met," or almost as *a* in "mate." This is a question in orthography. There I would leave it to be settled. Meantime we use our liberty of writing them according to our theories of their make-up, and we avoid the evil of adding four new letters to our alphabet.

J. H. KIDDER.

In reference to digraphs for the diphthongs *ai*, *au*, *oi*, and *iu*; I think these sounds should be expressed if possible by single letters.

1st. Because this is more in accordance with a fonetic scheme; as that, as I understand it, requires a sign for each sound and a sound for a sign, and only recognizes

each of the four diphthongs as one vowel element.

2nd. For the reason given by your correspondent, D. Kimball, in the February O. L.—simplicity of sounds and their representation.

In this connection I would call your attention to the fonetic scheme presented in Graham's "Handbook" of short-hand and in Longley's "Altruist," where single signs are used for diphthongs. A. B. LENNOX.

The closing sentence in the above letter suggests the thought that many teachers and users of short-hand very naturally base their views concerning fonetic spelling upon the short-hand alphabet with which they are most familiar. Now, short-hand is a commercial mode of writing and its efficiency as such requires the dropping of some features that can not be dispensed with in a literary mode of writing, just as the commercial mode of using language sacrifices to brevity many things that good usage demands in literary diction. Our problem is to construct a literary mode of spelling, and it must not be cut down to a commercial standard on the one hand, nor refined up to a dictionary standard on the other.

The Phonetic Journal for March 25 gives names of new members of the "Spelling League," bringing the total number up to 226.

Subscriptions to Vol. 3 of OUR LANGUAGE have been received from the following persons. An *x* after a name means that more than one copy is taken. Those classed as Patrons take ten copies each.

PATRONS.

Henry R. Boss.	C. W. Knudsen.
Mrs. E. B. Burnz.	L. Lyon.
Henry Holt.	C. P. G. Scott.
D. Kimball.	T. A. Spry.
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A. L. Bancroft.	J. M. McKinlay x
C. E. Cardew.	F. A. March. x
F. G. Cook.	J. M. Mott x
E. H. Currier.	J. Rogers.
H. V. Fitch. x	C. E. Sprague. x
G. M. Gould.	H. W. Thornton.
Asa Horr. x	R. Tombo.
A. V. W. Jackson.	J. C. Williams. x

These with some that overlap a part of the volume make a total of 131 subscriptions now in force. There are doubtless many more renewals to come.

Our Language.

DEVOTED TO

SPELLING-REFORM NEWS and THE DISCUSSION OF QUESTIONS IN ALFABETICS.

Publisht Munthly, at 3 Bond Street, New York,
By FREDERIK A. FERNALD.

Price, 50 Cents a Year.

Singl Number, 5 Cents.

Enterd as second class matter at the New York, N. Y., Post Office, 11 May, 1891.

VOL. 3.

MAY, 1893.

No. 2.

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Contributed articles and letters wil be speld in the style of the paper, but space wil be givn for one illustration of any uthr proposed fonetic scheme.

A blu X on the wrapper of this number means that your subscription has expired. The editor hopes that all expired subscriptions wil be renewd promptly.

THE FIVE DEBATABLE VOWELS.

III. Last words on *a* in "ask" and *o* in "obey."

MY DEAR MR. FERNALD:

Would not an alfabet be defectiv which supplies no means of indicating sounds recognized in the Century, Webster, Worcester, and Murray? It seems to me an important part of your notation that it givs a way of expressing Webster's *a* in "ask" and *o* in "obey." Even if you do not care to uze them in modern polite English, they must be uzed in erly and dialectic English, as in Anglo-Saxon and the speech taught in Boston and Cambridge. A scientific English alfabet should hav signs for all the elementary sounds of English, and in their wel known regular wide and narrow forms.

Yours truly, F. A. MARCH.

Prof. March probably does not mean that *all* the sounds markt in our standard dictionaries should hav separate caracters in ordinary print, and if not all, where shal we draw the line? As for the representing of obsolete and local pronunciation, should this not be a task for the lexicografers, quite apart from the spelling for literary and general use?

Mr. John M. Mott writes, "To represent the *a* of 'ask' by the sign for *a* of 'arm' would cause an undue prolongation of the sound; therefore the *a* of 'ask' needs a separate sign 'to retain in use one of the finest sounds of the language.' * * *

Has there been or can there be one reason givn for discarding this sound that wil for one moment bear investigation? The only reason offerd that seems to hav weight in any quarter is the cowardly one that to hav a letter for this sound would increase the number of new letters to be aded to the alfabet. If a fonic alfabet does not contain a letter for each sound how can the sounds be represented in dictionaries except by uzing sum letters to represent more than one sound? In ordinary print it may not be necessary to distinguish between the *a* of 'arm' and the *a* of 'ask,' or between the *o* of 'old' and the *o* of 'obey,' but why should it not be done? Would it make the printed page any less legibl? Would it injure the orthoepy of our language to indicate in ordinary print the correct pronunciation of each word? * * * Any printer worthy of the name of compositor can lern the boxes of a full fonic alfabet in ten minutes, and our aged grand-parents, after an hour's investiga-

tion, can read fluently books printed in fonic spellings, with letters worthy of a moment's consideration for a national alphabet."

Unfortunately not all good speakers of English agree with Mr. Mott and me that the *a* of "ask" really is "one of the finest sounds of the language." Many regard it as an affectation, and a great part of those who ignore it are English people, who certainly have some proprietary rights in the English language. There are many thousands of educated and cultivated persons, on both sides of the Atlantic, who pronounce *a* in "ask" just like *a* in "arm," and this being the fact, I think it wisest to have one sign for the two sounds, except in dictionaries and school reading-books.

Some reasons why unnecessary letters should not be used in ordinary print are that adding unnecessary type to fonts makes a needless increase in the cost of equipping every printing-office, and adding unnecessary boxes to the printer's case enlarges it so that the compositor's hand takes more time than need be in moving to and from the outlying ones. The time lost is trifling for each motion but the aggregate is important. Then there is the reason that Mr. Mott calls "cowardly," in support of which I will say only that "Discretion is the better part of valor."

Mr. H. V. Fitch presents the argument that a separate sign for unaccented *a* or *o* would be useful to show that the accent of a word was not on the syllable containing it. If we indicate the accent of some words we could not refuse to indicate that of all, and the signs required for this would make the alphabet too cumbersome. Those who advocate including the above sounds in the alphabet should, in order to be consistent, call for separate letters for the unaccented long vowels in "senate," "event" and diphthongs in "idea," "unite."

Mrs. Burnz writes in favor of representing these sounds in Primers, which is a separate matter, to be decided on its own merits. Then she states the question that we have been discussing as follows: "Then the question arises, to what extent should this exact pronunciation be expressed in ordinary newspapers and books. Will merely a blazed path be satisfactory, and should the reader be still left in doubt as to what is the most approved pronunciation of a word? Is a pronouncing dictionary to remain a necessity so long as the English

language exists? Perhaps a majority would prefer slipshod habits—room for individual idiosyncrasy of speech, it may be styled—to being brought to exactness in matters of pronunciation."

All teachers of foreign languages testify that it is impossible to teach *exact* pronunciation through the eye without the aid of the teacher's voice. We had better not waste energy that we can not spare in attempting the impossible.

Mr. Lockling gives his opinion in favor of the two vowels in question and Mr. George Cobb against them.

The only argument against making the letters for *a* in "arm" and *o* in "old" do duty also for *a* in "ask" and *o* in "obey" is the fear that this would lead to mispronunciation. Strange to say, there is no such fear in regard to other unaccented long vowels. It is groundless in any case. An attempt to pronounce the former vowels, in syllables with *light stress*, must give the latter. Look at it in another way, *a* in accented syllables means to the reader *a* in "arm," in unaccented syllables it means *a* in "ask"—which syllables are accented, it is agreed, must be learned at school or from a dictionary. Looking at the matter impartially there does not seem to be enough of positive argument to warrant distinguishing the sounds in question in the spelling of books, newspapers and letters.

AN ENGLISH ENGINEER ON THE SITUATION.

INSEIN, Lower Burma, }
March 11, 1893.

To the Editor of OUR LANGUAGE.

Dear Sir: 1. Your kind letter of 9 March, 1892, to hand, but never yet replied to. I am a busy man and in this hot climate find little time for writing as a recreation. Except during daylight it is a torture, as the insects rushing to the lamplight sit on your paper, swim in the ink, climb up your pen, get into your eyes, and generally combine to make one's life a burden.

2. You are surprised at my taking an interest in your paper so far away. The fact is, it is the only decent advocate of spelling-reform I know. I have been a spelling-reformer since 12 years old—now I am 41. I got all my first notions from Isaac Pitman's books on fonography, phonotypy, etc. I have taken in his *Phonetic Journal* for years. His system, however, does not satisfy me any more than it does

rather ardent reformers. It is at once inconsistent, faddy, and not thorough enuf.

3. Pitman's system of new letters goes too far, but it might at least represent English sounds consistently, which it does not. He is altogether at sea in his representation of the unaccented short vowels. His pairing of the long and short vowels is false, and so is his representation of two of the diphthongs. These are his *ei* and *ou*. He defines *e* and *i* to be the vowels in "fell" and "fill" respectively, and having done this he makes *ei* do duty for the dubl vowel in "file"! Again he uses *ou* for the "cow" dubl vowel, tho he defines *o* to be the "pot" vowel and *u* the "bull" vowel. Certainly sum dialects so sound "cow," but not standard English. Besides this he kindly invents a diphthong for us, namely, *âi*, or as he provokingly writes it, *ai*. He tells us this dubl vowel occurs in the word "ay" (yes). It is quite too absurd keeping up a special diphthong for use in one word only! That is the sum total yet discovered by the *Phonetic Journal*, tho it also attributes it to the Franco-English word "naïve."

4. Again Pitman kicks out *x* from the alfabet as being a useless dubl letter that can be replaced by *ks* or *gz*. Unfortunately, however, no two peopl from different parts of England wil agree which it is to be, while uthers want *kz* in sum instances. Hense the grent need for *x* to represent this constantly occurring dubl consonant. While, however, he refuses to retain it he has no compunction in retaining *j*, as in "Jew," and introducing a tailed *c* (sumthing like *ç*) to represent the corresponding dubl consonant herd in "chew." To be consistent he ought to hav done without either and writn *dz* and *tsh*.

5. As for Pitman's gradual spelling-reform in sum thre or four stages, each to last a generation or so, it is in plain English all rot!* . Spelling-reformers, like uthers, may hav to wait for generations to gain their end, but they wil never deliberately accept such delay as part of *their* program. This belongs to that of the enemy! There are thousands of reasonabl peopl who are willing and redy for a reform when onse they know what they are in for. What is wanted is a reasonabl, practical, definit, and final scheme, which can be adopted and lern't without having to unlern it again. In fact we want the new spelling put forward authoritatively, to be used

without shame or ridicule. Of course, old peopl wil stick to the old spelling, but the yung, and those who stil feel yung enuf to try it, wil lern the new. I am delighted to see that you go in for this idea. I am sure we shal eventually get the reform from America. My own cuntrymen are too conservativ (even those who call themselves Radicals), and too foolishly wedded to their stupid spelling, coinage, weights, and mesures, and all the uther bag of British tricks, to ever hope for any reform from them. Seriously, I would ask Mr. Pitman (whom I hav had the honor to number among my friends for many years past) and his party, would Spain or Russia or any uther of the reformd-spelling cuntries ever have carried their reforms if they had agreed to dribl them out during generations, insted of during the lifetime of a few earnest leaders? Yours faithfully,

C. E. CARDEW.

The S. R. A. Alfabet on the Type-writer.—Mr. H. V. Fitch writes: "I hav thought of one way of adapting the S. R. A. alfabet to the ordinary typewriter which has 26 bars for the letters. Remove the letters *c*, *q* and *x* from thre of the bars and substitute the new S. R. A. vowels. For the long vowels, either dubl the letters, as *aa*, *ee*, or use a silent *h*, as *ah*, *eh*, etc. I do not insist upon either of the abuv ways, but I hav seen no adaptation except the abuv that could be used on a 26-bar machine."

FOREIGN NEWS.

—Prof. F. W. Newman, who has been for many years one of the prominent advocates of reformd spelling in England, has recently publisht a pamphlet on the reform, entitled "Speech and Script." (Stevenson, Bailey, & Smith; Nottingham. 16 p., price 6d.)

—*The Nationalization News* (London, Eng.) publisht by a society of which E. A. Phipson is tresurer, announces that it wil hav a paragraf or two in fonetic spelling each munnth. The alfabet adopted is substantially that givn by Mr. Phipson in *Fonetic Spelling Scheme*, No. 7 (O. L., Aug., 1892), but the breve and macron hav been replaced by the accents used in OUR LANGUAGE for the past half year.

—The proposed changes in French spelling reported last munnth are made the subject of a four page articl, by Prof. Max Müller, in *The Contemporary Review* for April.

* Mr. Pitman has reduced his stages to two, but there are uthers whom this cap fits.—EDITOR.

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Contributed articles and letters wil be speld in the style of the paper, but space wil be givn for one illustration of any uthr proposed fonetic scheme.

PERSUNAL.

Erly in May the Executiv Comitte of the Spelling Reform Association elected me to the vacant office of Corresponding Secretary. My chief duty for the present wil be to serv as managing editor of *Spelling*, and I feel safe in promising the members of the S. R. A., that the magazine wil apear promptly each quarter and wil be an efectiv instrument for the work of the Association as long as it remains in my charge. The oficial position wil enable me to do much more for the reform than I could as a private individual. Those who hav shown their aproval of my work as an editor by supporting OUR LANGUAGE for now going on three years wil see a substantial endorsement of their judgment in this action of the S. R. A.'s comitte. What efect, if any, my acceptance of the management of *Spelling* wil hav upon my own paper, I can not say at present.

—The editor wil be at 3410 Rhodes Av. while in Chicago—from about the 10th to the 20th or 22nd of July.

DIPHTHONGS AGAIN.

The discussion as to whether or no diphthongs should be represented by singl letters has been somewhat desultory, partly because I tried to do too much at onse, and partly because sum of my correspondents wer so slow in acepting the invitation to state their views that I thought they had nuthing to say. We wil now, if those interested so please, finish up this subject, and in future I beg that correspondents wil say what they care to say promptly, so that our discussions may not drag over too many months.

The arguments brought forward alredy in regard to diphthongs wil be found in O. L. for September, 1892; February and April, 1893. The following letter was receivd erly in February, and has onse been in the printer's hands, but space could not be spared for it til now.

Mr. Editor: I am strongly in favor of *i*, *u* and *ou*, tho diphthongal in sound, being retaind as singl letters *ou* being represented by a new letter. Their elements ar so closely blended that practicaly they becum a singl and distinct sound from their originals, and ar sumwht distinct in quality as a rule.

A syllabl must contain one vowel, and only one. Wil it be claimd that the word 'mine' has *two* syllabls, or that 'house' has? I think not, and yet it has been attempted to spel them using *two* vowels.

Further, if *i*, *u* and *ou* are diphthongs, so are *a* and *o*, perhaps in a less degree—the former merging in *e*, the latter in *oo*.

By using the diphthongs as two separate letters an extra letter is added to each syl-

labl in which their sound occurs, and as that frequently happens words are unnecessarily lengthened to that extent.

Oi does not belong to the same class as *i*, *u* and *ou*, the two letters not blending and becoming a part of each other as do the former, but form two separate syllables. The two vowel sounds it 'join' and 'jawning' are precisely the same, yet one is considered *one* syllable the other *two*, which can not be admitted.

If *oi* is a diphthong so are *ai*, *ei*, *ii*, *oi* (in going), and sum others which I do not admit. They are simply vowels in contact, yet each preserving its own complete sound, and helping form a syllable by itself.

L. L. LOCKLING.

[Neither Mr. Lockling nor Mr. Kimball (February O. L.) advocates a single letter for *oi*, deeming this a looser combination than the other diphthongs.

This view has the support of good authority which I can not now lay my hand on. Hence there seems to be general agreement that the sounds commonly represented by *oi* or *oy* (whether called a diphthong or not) should continue to be represented by two letters. This narrows the discussion down to the three diphthongs *ai*, *au*, and *iu*.

Mr. Lockling's statement that "a syllable must contain one vowel and only one," can not be accepted, for the recognized authorities contradict it. The International Webster (p. lxxi; Syllabication) treats it as a matter of indifference whether a single vowel or diphthong forms "the core of a syllable." Hence the argument based upon the above statement falls to the ground. Passing by his second point for a moment, his third may be noted as valid, though some persons might not admit his adjective "unnecessarily." The second point made by Mr. Lockling shows up a new phase of the matter. If we write the so-called long *i* and long *u* with two letters, must we do the same with long *a* and *o*, which are somewhat diphthongal in character? There is this difference, however, that in the two latter cases the second element, called the "vanish," is very brief, while in *ai* and *au* neither part has predominance (Webster). But if we disregard the second part of long *a* and *o* because it is much shorter than the first, it may be said that we should disregard the first part of *iu* because it is briefer than the second, and represent the diphthong by the letter for

its chief part. Practical reasons would prevent any one advocating this, however, for the difference between *û* and *iû* is important. Reformers who object to representing *âi*, *âû*, and *iû* by the signs of their elements wish to represent each by a new sign.

The following letter, while not written for this discussion, yet bears upon it closely enough to be included here:

Editor of OUR LANGUAGE.

SIR:—While agreeing in the main with Cardew's criticism of Pitman, as published in O. L. for May, '93, let me call attention that Pitman has expressed tolerance of other analyses of diphthongs. This should not be lost sight of. He should, in the interest of agreement, be held to the following opinions which I quote from page 336 of *Phonetic Journal* for 14th July, 1893:

"A great change has occurred in the opinion of reformers as to the use of digraphs for *ei*, *iu*, *ou* since we first tried them from 1853 to 1865 and returned to single letters for *ei*, *iu* [as in *my*, *few*]. It is now generally acknowledged that to burden the alphabet with three unnecessary letters, and necessarily ugly ones, would be a thousand-fold worse than the little trouble of accustoming ourselves to two letters for each of these three double sounds. As to their analysis we shall be perfectly content if other printers represent them by *ai*, *yû*, and *yu*, *au* and let the public judge between us."

For myself, I plead for the use of *ai*, *au* and *iu* in mid-syllables, with *yu* initial.

A. HAMILTON.

Prof. Knoflach's Latest Pupil is a boy only five and a half years old. He took his first lesson in Prof. K's "Sound English Primer" (phonetic print) on the 5th October, and in April had reached the Fourth Reader in Swinton's series (common print), besides having read a volume of Grimm's "Fairy Tales" for his own pleasure. About the end of May he wrote a letter to his parents which has been a source of wonder and admiration to those who have seen it.

Prof. Knoflach now uses script in giving his first lessons by the re-spelling method: the second step is to the same matter in Roman type, and the third step is to the common spelling. This is the sort of work that wins favor for phonetic print.

WHAT DO I WISH?

I wish a literary controlling interest in a book publishing syndicate, formed on a basis something like the following, viz:

1. To relieve children as soon as possible.
2. To make it easy for foreigners to learn to read English print.
3. To do this at least expense to ourselves, to parents, and to others.
4. We will use as a stepping-stone, an alphabet chosen, as far as we can, from forms now in use.
5. We will give no royalty on new forms, but invite friendly suggestions.
6. We will ask no royalty on our alphabet.
7. We will seek approval of our alphabet by Bureau of Education.
8. At first, we will introduce no new authors in primary school books.
9. Our first work shall be primers and readers now widely used.
10. Then any book, by an author so well and favorably known, that it would sell in the altered spelling.
11. Any worthy book by any author who will deposit a guarantee fund.

Will you aid me in such a work?

JAMES ROGERS, Crestview, Fla.

The Phonetic English Alphabet.—

By JOHN M. MOTT. 14 p., Q. The author, Chicago; paper, 20 cents.

This pamphlet contains a fonetic alphabet (not the only one, as its title seems to claim) for the English language. The alphabet is printed in large heavy type, the capitals being an inch high. Capital and small forms are given for each letter, together with a key-word and a name. The same sounds are recognized that are included in the alphabet of the Spelling Reform Association. Twenty-one new letters are provided—six for consonants, eleven for simple vowels, and four for diphthongs—and twenty-three old letters are retained. This is an intolerable proportion of new letters and will probably prevent the alphabet from gaining much favor. The forms of the new letters are, for the most part, neat and harmonious, and they are all Mr. Mott's own—none of the forms that have already won considerable acceptance being included. Two of the forms in the S. R. A. alphabet are approached very nearly, but Mr. Mott uses his adaptation of the Italic *a* for the *a* in "at," while the S. R. A. assigns it to the *a* in "ask." The small letters, both old and new, are made to cum hunc abuv the line, which is something that printers deem very desirable.

The Sermon on the Mount.—In Burnz' Pronouncing Print. Burnz & Co., 24 Clinton Pl., New York. 24 p., S, paper 10 cts., 75 cts. a dozen.

The above named part of the New Testament has been printed in type already described in connection with "Step-by-Step Primer." The edition is designed for Sunday schools and missions, and I understand is to be used in the Chinese missions at Nankin and Shanghai. Not only the sound (or lack of sound) of every letter, but the accent and the division of words into syllables are marked. Those who are teaching foreigners to read the Bible in English will find their efforts more effective if they use these reprints.

The Result of a Spelling Match.—

At the Orange county (N. Y.) Teachers' Institute at Goshen, April 14th, the following resolution was adopted after a spirited debate:

Whereas, Almost all of the English spelling is the most absurd and irrational in the world, therefore, be it resolved that the teachers of Orange county urge a reform, having in view the simplification of spelling, to the end that it should be simple, reasonable and accurate.

This resolution was suggested by the fact that in a spelling match which was held on Thursday, 152 out of 249 teachers mist the word "accordion," 117 failed on "villain" and 135 misspelled "pavilion," and they were all doing their very prettiest, as a dictionary was offered as a prize to the best speller. Even teachers will make mistakes at times, especially in spelling.—*The Phonographic Magazine*.

—The place of meeting of the Spelling Reform Assoc. on July 13 will probably be the same as that of the Philological Assoc., which is to be announced in the course of this month.

—*The Spelling Reformer*, published by Dr. C. W. Larison, has ceased to appear. Dr. Larison still continues *The Journal of Orthoepe and Orthograft*, which is now in its tenth year.

—A biographical sketch and a portrait of Mrs. Eliza Boardman Burnz, who for more than forty years has been one of the most active and devoted of spelling-reformers, appears in *The Phonographic Magazine* for 15th May.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

C. E. CARDEW.—An Index and Title-page to OUR LANGUAGE will be furnished when enough pages have been issued to make a fair sized volume—perhaps at the end of this year.

E. A. PHIPSON.—The reason why the spellings you suggest are not covered by the rules of the two Philological Societies is that the Societies did not wish to include at present any changes that could be objected to by those who are unduly anxious about etymology. As for "diphthong," the English society is not ready to agree that *ph* represents the sound of *f* in that word.

I do not know of any leaflets containing the "24 Rules," but the S. R. A. supplies a 7-page pamphlet entitled "Action of the Philological Associations" which contains them. Price, 20 cents a hundred.

L. LYON.—I plead guilty to a slip of the pen: the first syllable of "yunnait" is not a diphthong.

FOREIGN NEWS.

—In April a paper on "The Writing of Geographical Names" was presented to the German "Geographentag" by Prof. Dr. W. Köppen. It reviewed the development of the subject since 1885 and offered suggestions for closer agreement among German, French and English-speaking geographers. The substance of this paper is given in an article on "The Orthography of Geographical Names," by Lt. Col. J. C. Dalton, in *The Geographical Journal* (London) for May.

—Pitman's *Phonetic Journal* often mentions lectures on spelling-reform given before Shorthand Writers' Associations in England. Thus on 12th April one was given at Oldham, by a Mr. Royer. On 13th April there was one in London by Mr. J. Munford, on "Fonography in Relation to the Efficiency of Elementary Education." Mr. Munford advocated teaching children first by a systematic spelling, and afterwards the ordinary spelling. The present Bishop of London had said that a whole year of every child's life was wasted by our present method of learning to spell. His (the lecturer's) children had been taught to spell by the method he advocated, and with results of a highly satisfactory character. The address was followed by discussion after which a resolution was carried unanimously condemning the present system of spelling and recommending the mode

of teaching spelling that had been set forth by the lecturer.

—At its session of the 16th Feb. the French Academy took up the first of the recent recommendations of M. Greard's committee on the Dictionary, the one relating to capital letters. After an interesting discussion a rule that every common noun used in a figurative sense should take a capital and that no proper noun used as a common noun should take one, was passed unanimously.

—The Publication Committee of the S. R. A. intends to issue No. 7 of *Spelling* in the course of the current month.

—The editor apologizes for the lateness of OUR LANGUAGE this month. Private affairs taking a great deal of time during the last part of May and first part of June caused the delay.

—Some of the Chicago friends have placed a register for spelling-reformers, with a desk at which they can write letters, in the office of the Hammond Typewriter Co., 196 La Salle St., where it is hoped that all reformers visiting the city will record their names and stopping places.

Subscriptions.—Payments for subscriptions from the following persons were received up to June 10. An X after a name means that more than one copy is taken.

H: R. Boss. X	A. Hamilton.
W: Boyd. X	A. B. Lennox. X
C. E. Cardew.	C. E. Nichols.
	W. B. Owen.

—"The inventor of the alphabet must have been a modest man," said Hawkins. "Why so?" asked Mawson. "Because he began it with A," said Hawkins: "most men would have begun it with I."—*Harper's Bazar*.

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ADDRESS: F. A. FERNALD,

3 BOND STREET,

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Our Language.

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Price, 50 Cents a Year.

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No. 4.

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Contributed articles and letters wil be speld in the style of the paper, but space wil be givn for one illustration of any uthr proposed fonetic scheme.

CHICAGO MEETING OF THE S. R. A.

The Spelling Reform Association held its meeting for 1893 as a section of the Congress of Philologists, in connection with the World's Columbian Exposition. The session was held in the forenoon of Saturday, 15th July, at the Art Institute in Chicago. The president, Prof. Francis A. March, calld the meeting to order and at onse askt for remarks from those present, calling upon Henry R. Boss as the first speaker. Mr. Boss said that the reform must proceed gradually and that the first thing to do was to break down the prevalent worship of the dictionary. Printers wer wel disposed toward a moderate reform. He knew of two hundred who said they would take the Durboraw rules, but they did not want any new-fangld alfabet. Their only objection to putting the rules in practice was that they did not want to be first. Another thing, the reform must be advertised. A great many wel informd persuns wer wholly ignorant of what has been done. He had recently brought the

matter to the atention of an editor of a Chicago daily, who said, "that is a language matter; why don't you pick into the Philological Association?"

Dr. G. H. Balg followd Mr. Boss saying that we should not begin with the newspapers but with the scools. Get the reformd spelling adopted for the scools by act of legislature and in fifteen or twenty years the papers would follow. As a means of making the reform known the Association ought to apoint a man in each state to see that its proposals wer publisht in the papers of his state onse or twice a year, and continue this for a number of years.

Mr. J. R. Price said that a great many scool-teachers did not know anything about fonetics. If the primers prescribed for them to uze gave any directions for fonetic teaching they wer not alowd to put them in practice. His litl girl spelt both ways and had got her teacher interested in fonetic spelling. He was a teacher of stenografy in a business college and for several years had had the rules of the Philological Association hung up in his room and had told his pupils that if in the future they had an opportunity to uze reformd spelling, with the aproval of their employers, not to be backward about doing it.

The president said it was the plan of the Association to advance the reform along all the lines that had been mentiond. Books had been printed for teaching reading by the aid of fonetic spelling and had been tried with sum success. Amended spelling had been introduced into sum

papers. In the papers published by college students very few practical difficulties had been found in introducing it.

Mr. John M. Mott said that an alphabet full enough for dictionary use should be decided upon without delay. He would send *q* and *x* to the melting-pot at once. He would toss a copper between *c* and *k* and pray mentally that *c* might win, and he would have enough letters added to the alphabet to give a separate sign for every vowel and consonant in the language. A good way to make the reform movement better known would be to send out paragraphs to the local papers all over the country through the agencies that furnish stereotyped matter.

Mr. F. A. Fernald said that the president had stated the policy of the Association to be to carry on the work of reform along all the lines. For many years most of the efforts of the Association had been devoted to promoting the use of partial corrections in writing and printing. He thought it was time that the fonetic teaching of reading had its turn again, and he therefore moved that a committee of three be appointed to promote such teaching. He thought this work would win more good-will for the reform than anything else. When we ask a person to use partial corrections we ask him to take some trouble for which he gets no *present* benefit: when we ask him to let his children be taught to read by the aid of fonetic spelling, we offer an *immediate* benefit to his children for which he need take no trouble. The motion was seconded.

Mr. Boss said that there was great opposition to the fonetic spelling method in many places. The Board of Education in Chicago had a rule positively forbidding it.

Mr. Wellington Wilcox, who wrote the call for the international convention at Philadelphia, in 1876, at which the Spelling Reform Association was organized, gave his experience in fonetic teaching. He had made himself unpopular several times by introducing it and once, at least, had lost his position on account of it. Yet some of his pupils derived much benefit from it; one who is now engaged in bridge building in Pittsburg had written recently that he had never forgotten his fonetic alphabet.

Dr. Charles P. G. Scott said he liked the *idea of having the committee*, as proposed

by Mr. Fernald, to pass upon the books and methods which should be used under the sanction of the Association. In the matter of a fonetic alphabet, a judgment, though not a final one, had been given as to what the Association should work towards. Yet there were reformers who spent all their spare time and money in concocting new alphabets. He wished that anyone who had come to that meeting with an alphabet in his pocket would take it home and burn it.

Mr. O. C. Blackmer said that he had introduced fonetic teaching at St. Charles, Ill., many years ago, having converted his primary teacher there to the use of it. He did not remain long enough to see the pupils change to the ordinary spelling. But at Rockford where he went next he also introduced it and it was a great success. Pupils after learning it went over to the ordinary spelling without any special effort. But an influential minister learned that the idea came from the "infidel" city of Cincinnati and he raised such a storm against it that the school trustees were frightened and ordered it given up.

Mr. Fernald's motion was then put to vote and carried unanimously. The President said that he would appoint the committee at some future time.

Mr. Wilcox made the suggestion that a spelling-book with fonetic and common spelling in parallel columns would be very useful. Pupils could study their spelling lessons from it by looking at the fonetic spelling and sliding a piece of paper down over the common spelling. If such a book were prepared he could introduce it into several schools.

Mr. George B. Broomell could not see that much progress had been made since the Association was organized in 1876. We had tried everything and had not succeeded very well with anything. Even on the program of the filological congress the word "program" was spelled with the final *-me*.

Mr. Melvil Dewey replied that we should not have expected any more in seventeen years than we have accomplished. The new dictionaries are favoring the reform more and more, and there is no longer any direct opposition. A prominent member of the American Library Association had recently said to him "I hate it, but I can see that it is getting stronger." Mr. Broomell and others have sown seed that we are reaping the harvest from. The thing for us to do

is to wait for the right moment and when it *cums strike hard*.

Mr. Blackmer called attention briefly to the valuable literature the Association had issued in its Bulletins and the magazine *Spelling*.

The President by request told of the reforms in chemical words that have been made by the chemical section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He added that the late Mr. Mutchler had secured the insertion, in a bill for public printing which was before the last Congress, of a provision that in cases where more than one mode of spelling a word is sanctioned by the standard dictionaries the Public Printer should use the simplest mode. The Senate and House did not concur on certain other provisions of the bill, and before an agreement was reached the session closed.

Mr. Dewey moved that the election of officers be postponed until a report could be had from the Executive Committee on a revision of the constitution. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Price called attention to the Congress of Stenographers to be held the following week. Spelling reform would receive favorable attention at that congress and he moved that a committee be appointed to confer with the committee in charge of the congress with regard to printing in amended spelling sum of the papers to be read at its sessions.

The President appointed Mr. Price chairman, and later added Mrs. E. B. Burnz, and Mr. Blackmer as the other members of such committee.

The meeting then adjourned.

FOREIGN NEWS.

—Mr. Clarence Pitman, of Melbourne, delivered recently a series of lectures on "Fonography and the Spelling-reform" in Melbourne and the neighborhood which were very well received and which were favorably noticed by the press.

—PARIS, July 25. The French Academy, after a long discussion, has assented to a scheme for a reform in spelling. The principal new rules are for the suppression of the hyphen in compound words, and for making a uniform plural with the letter "s."—*Special Cable Despatch to the Evening Post, New York*.

—The London *Academy*, of 10th June, 1893, p. 502, in a review of Robert Underwood Johnson's book "The Winter Hour and Other Poems," says: "The book is, of course, spelt Americanly; but we grow more and more used to this, now that so much of our most interesting literature travels across an ocean to delight us."

Let our American writers who would promote "American" that is, rational spelling, write "interesting literature," and their spelling will gain acceptance with their matter.

Spelling Reform in the A. P. A.—

At the annual meeting of the American Philological Association, held on the 11th to 13th July, in Chicago, a report from the committee on spelling-reform was read by its chairman, Prof. F. A. March. As this meeting was one of the congresses held in connection with the World's Fair the report took the form of a historical sketch from which the strangers present could get an outline of what had been done by the committee in the past twenty years. No new action had been taken since the last meeting. The president, Prof. W. G. Hale, took exception to the phrase "*nemine contradicente*" as applied by Prof. March to the action of the Association on spelling-reform, and another member asked if the corrupt pronunciation "pro g'fūm" which he had heard was not due to the dropping the final *-me* in spelling "program." In reply Prof. March maintained the justness of his phrase, and denied that simplified spelling had anything to do with the corrupt pronunciation of "program," which he did not believe was heard in many localities.

Diphthongs.—No new arguments on the representation of diphthongs have been received since the last issue, although two or three correspondents have emphasized some of those already given. Assuming that all the arguments on both sides have now been brought out the editor will close the discussion with a summary next month.

Subscriptions.—Payments for subscriptions from the following persons have been received since 10th June. The total number now in force is 165.

O. C. Blackmer. x Frederick Starr.
Miss R. M. Sanborn. N. J. Werner.

—A paper on "English Words which have gained or lost an Initial Consonant by Attraction", read by Dr. Charles P. G. Scott at the meeting of the American Philological Association in 1892, has been printed in amended spelling in the Transactions of the Association. A second paper on the same subject was read this year by Dr. Scott and will appear in the same dress.

—Dr. Hamilton writes to correct the date, 14th July 1893, given for a quotation from the *The Phonetic Journal* in O. L. of last month, page 10. It should be 1883.

—The vacancy caused by the death of Hon. William Mutchler, of Pennsylvania, one of the staunchest friends of spelling-reform has ever had in Congress, has been filled by the election of his son Howard.

—An extended account of the symposium on spelling-reform held by the Anthropological Society, of Washington, some months ago has been published in *The National Publisher and Printer* and also in *The Leader*.

—*Raymond's Monthly*, issued by A. Raymond & Co., Men's Outfitters, New York, says in its June number, "we want to give you a correct idea in regard to these suits and will catalog them for your convenience." They are bathing-suits and the spelling of "catalog" indicates that they do not contain any superfluous material to clog—no, clog—the movements of the wearer.

—A recent number of the *Christian World*, published at Dayton, O., contains an article by Rev. John V. Potts, on "Improved Spelling." After pointing out and illustrating the evils of the current spelling Mr. Potts says, "A revolution in our spelling is sure to come. I am ready for it, and am giving my influence for the ushering in of the palmy days when we shall pronounce as we spell and spell as we pronounce."

—A strolling angler on the banks of the Waipahi lately came across the following notice, which answered its intended purpose: "No person is allowed to traspus heir."—*Typo*, New Zealand.

A FOSIL'S REASON.

I do not like the way you spel;
The reason why I can not tel,
But only this I no full wel,
I do not like the way you spel.

—The editing of *Spelling* which I announced last month would be done by me in future has not yet come into my hands. I am informed that a number which was prepared before I was made Corresponding Secretary is now in type, but its publication has been delayed by business troubles of the printers.

—Believing that subscribers would like to have an extra copy of *OUR LANGUAGE* once in a while, the editor sends one to each this month.

"A New Orthography."—It is one of the signs of the times that articles in favor of simplified spelling are constantly appearing in new quarters and with increasing frequency. *Science* for 21 July, 1893, gives a prominent place to an article of more than a page under the above title by Prof. J. I. D. Hinds, of Cumberland University. Prof. Hinds proposes a scheme of "old letter" spelling, using the present vowels unmodified for their short sounds, and representing their Continental sounds respectively by *aa*, *ae*, *ie*, *oe*, and *ue*, with *oo* for the vowel in "foot", "bull". The diphthongs he represents by *ei*, *ou*, *oi*, and *yu* classing with these *au* as in "laud", and *ai* as in "air". For the unrepresented consonants he uses five of the well known digraphs and *c* alone in place of *ch*. A specimen of his spelling follows:

"Swiet woz dhe sound, hwen oft, at ievning's
kloez,
Up yondur hil dhe villaj murmur roez,
Dhair az I past widh kairles steps and slo,
Dhe mingling noets kaem sofn from belo."

He does not regard this as a finished system but as something that would bring immediate relief to children learning to read and "lead easily to a better and more philosophical phonetic system".

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DIPHTHONGS—A SUMMARY.

A decision as to whether each of the diphthongs had better be represented by one letter or two can best be reacht by answering two questions: first, which way is strictly correct? and, secund, is the strictly correct way expedient? No one with the least knowledge of fonetics wil deny, what every dictionary affirms, that each diphthong consists of two simpl vowels run together. Whenever a diphthong is pronounced the first vowel is heard closely followd by the secund. The diphthong has no sound apart from those of its elements. Anyone may convince himself of this by prolonging, either in the singing or speaking voice, a syllabl containing a diphthong, as "high," "now," or "mute." As Mr. Kidder describes it (April O. L.), a diphthong can not be spoken with the vocal organs in a fixt position as a simpl vowel can. The organs must take first the position required for the first element, then pass to the position for the secund. The fonetic principl

requires that each word shal be speld with as many signs as it has sounds—no less as wel as no more—hense the strictly correct way of representing a diphthong is by two letters.

Now as to expediency. One argument in favor of uzing a singl letter, urged by Mr. Kimball (Feb. O. L.), is that in energetic speech the diphthongs seem like simpl vowels, hense that representing them by digrafs would be confusing.

Mr. Lockling givs the same reason for uzing singl letters for diphthongs; to quote his words, "Their elements ar so closely blended that practically they becum a singl and distinct sound from their elements." A secund argument presented by him is that a digraf makes the syllabl in which it ocurs one letter longer than if a singl letter wer uzed.

The arguments for representing diphthongs by the signs of their elements ar, first, it would make teaching the difference between simpl vowels and diphthongs easier; secund, it would save the trubl, expense, and delay that would be involvd in designing and securing the acceptance of three new letters; third, it would save enlarging the printer's case by three boxes and extending the space over which his hand must travel to and fro; fourth, it would keep down the cqst of equipping a printing-office by making three less sorts in every font; and fifth, it would secure agreement with the German practice which wil remain unchanged in reformd German spelling and wil doutless be adopted in French when the spelling of that language is thoroughly reformd. The editor is con-

vinced by these arguments and has reason to believe that the greater part of his subscribers are of the same mind. Accordingly the position of *OUR LANGUAGE* on this question from now on is decided by them.

Furthermore, in rebuttal of the first of the arguments on the other side may be said that it is hard to predict what "would be" the effect of any untried device, hence it is open to doubt that any serious confusion would result from the use of digraphs, if their powers were intelligently taught. As to the second argument, while brevity is a good thing, and one thing we are fighting for, a logical phonetic notation is more important. Not more than one or two in the whole number of reformers object to lengthening "next" to "nekst," for the latter is phonetic while the former is abbreviated.

THE STENOGRAPHERS' CONGRESS AT CHICAGO.

A plea for aid from stenographers in effecting a simplification of English spelling was made by Mrs. Eliza B. Burnz at their Congress in Chicago, July 21st. She entitled her paper "Foundation Stones," and contended that spoken and written language were the foundations of civilization and should correspond in simplicity and ease of acquisition. After presenting many cogent arguments in favor of simple spelling, and answering the usual objections, Mrs. Burnz concluded thus:

"Fellow Phonographers, I appeal to you. You are men and women, acknowledging the brotherhood of man, and believing in the duty of not living for self alone but to benefit the race of which each of us forms an integral part. Therefore, I ask you to examine this subject thoroughly, in all its bearings and its wide-reaching consequences; and if you are convinced that the *ought to be* is on the side of orthographic revision do not withhold your aid. Your daily work, so far as taking shorthand notes is concerned, is in the line of phonetic spelling—you are therefore intellectually, to the "manner born." Yet, I am aware that when transcripts of your notes have to be made, the demand to spell by the dictionary comes very stringently. As in the printer's trade, your very existence depends upon using an irrational mode of *spelling*, hence there must be a continual war between the flesh and the spirit if you

believe in the great need that exists for a changed orthography. Yours is a case in which, though you may believe and preach, you dare not practice; and yet, I exhort you to believe and preach. With Paul you have to say, 'When I would do good evil is present with me,' but don't give up your *belief*; not even to the inevitable necessity of daily wrong *doing*. So far as opportunity offers, speak to your friends in approval of revised spelling; drop superfluous *e's* in your *private* correspondence; use a rubber stamp at the top of your letter paper which prints the words 'Simplified Spelling,' and thus, and in every other possible way, help to create that public sentiment which, as a mighty rushing wind, will someday demand a simple, economical and rational orthography for the English language."

The request made by the Spelling Reform Association, on July 15th, that some of the papers read at the Stenographers' Congress should be printed in amended spelling, was presented by Mr. J. R. Price and a resolution was passed acceding to the request. The papers of Mr. Price and Mrs. Burnz had already been prepared by them in Century Appendix Spelling, and Mr. Tombo, of New York, Miss Ballantyne, of Rochester, and several others, expressed a wish that their papers also should be pruned of redundant letters.

At the Business Educators' Meeting, which was in session the same day, Mr. Price secured the passage of a resolution similar to that which was passed by the stenographers.

Mrs. Burnz also distributed a considerable quantity of reform leaflets. Her address with others printed in the new spelling, will be found in the Report of the Proceedings of the Stenographers' Congress, published by the *National Stenographer Co.*, Chicago, Ill.; price, 50 cents.

—A recent publication of the Bureau of Education is entitled "Catalog of 'A. L. A.' Library," and throughout the volume the word catalog and its derivatives are spelled without the useless *ue*. The matter was prepared by a committee of the American Library Association.

—According to the *Times*, the committee revising the course in the public schools of Denver, Colo., recommends a revival of the phonetic system of spelling.—*The Phonographic Magazine*.

DETAILS OF THE FONETIC METHOD

By SUZAN M. FILLIPS.

Among my first procedures was an examination of text-books, with which I was, in the main, well pleased. I found Swinton's Readers, which, tho they have several objectionable features, are constructed on a fonetic basis; Read & Kellogg's "Lessons in English," and Read's "Word Lessons." What better authority for the teaching of fonics can any teacher ask than the presence of such books, approved by the proper officers in a school? In order to use any one of these books fairly or in justice to its author, I must of necessity teach fonics. I was very careful that my first lessons in fonics and successive lessons for some time, were taken directly from these books. No one could then suspect that I was setting forth some strange new doctrine, peculiar to myself, or that I was teaching in a public school anything which I was not duly authorized to teach.

Early during the forenoon of the first day at school, I called to my desk either the Second or the Third Reader class (I do not now recall which), and heard the children read. Respecting the reading I made few comments, and did not speak of mistakes until a pupil failed altogether to pronounce in reading a word which was given in the list of words at the head of the lesson. I directed the attention of the class to that word in the list and asked the pupil to spell it. He began to name the letters. When he had named the letters of the first syllable, I asked, "What is the sound of the *a* in that syllable?" He looked at me in a way which showed plainly that to him my question meant nothing and did not answer. I put the question to the class with like result. I directed their attention to the diacritic mark above the letter and asked, "What does that mark mean?" "Why is it there?" As it meant nothing to them, they who made any reply said, "I don't know."

I proceeded to tell them in a way which I thought they could comprehend the use of diacritics. Crayon in hand, I went to the blackboard, and when I wished, illustrated my talk upon the board. I told them that a spoken word consists of sounds, and made my meaning apparent to them by separating a variety of words each into its oral elements. Occasionally I invited them to take part in the work, or asked them questions respecting it.

Next I wrote some of these words upon the board, and after explaining to them that a written word is intended to be simply a sign, or a representative of a spoken word, and that the letters of the written word are intended to represent the fones of the spoken word, I showed them that in different words we write the same letter to represent different fones, and that in some words we write letters which do not represent any fones. I refrained from making any adverse criticism at this point respecting the old spelling. I wished to confine my talk, as far as possible, to the most obvious facts. I told them that a system of marks is in use, by means of which we can indicate the fone which any letter is intended to represent in any word or syllable, and that such are the marks which they saw in their books. When I had illustrated this point, they began to perceive what I had told them—that the diacritic marks given in their books, were there for the purpose of aiding them in the work of learning to read, and that a knowledge of the meaning of each would be a great help to them.

Altho this talk was addressed to the class before me, I tried to adapt it to the school. I had not asked the pupils who were at their desks to attend to what I was saying. I was "the new teacher"; only one of the pupils had ever seen me before, and he only once. Well, I knew that to all I said, and did that day would close attention be paid by every member of the school.

* * * * *

Among the furnishings of the school-room I found one of Appleton's charts, from which I began to teach my primary class in reading. So far as any combination of the word method with the fonic method may be said to be good, this chart is a good thing. To me it is objectionable, because its use involves the use, to some extent, of the abominable word method; because the order of development of the fonic alphabet as therein given is not logical and the best suited to voice culture; and because reading is introduced at too early a stage. Its chief points of advantage are its large clear type, the amount of matter given for fonic drill, and the fact that the matter constituting the various exercises, and the illustrations which accompany them, are such as are suited to awaken and maintain the interest of young children.

In using this chart I adhered to the plan of the author. In addition, upon the blackboard, I kept a list of the fones learned, adding new ones as they were learned, and each day drilled the children in the proper utterance of these fones.

* * * * *

These little folks enjoy their work. They take delight in separating words into their fones and do much of it for their own entertainment. From the parents I often hear amusing stories of the attempts made by the children to teach their parents and grandparents, and even their cats, what they have learned at school.—From "The Fonic Method in a District School," in *The Journal of Orthoepeia and Orthography*.

Mott's Modern Mode. Chart No. 1.—Fourth Edition. By JOHN M. MOTT. Price, illuminated, cloth mounted, and on rollers, \$2.50.

This chart bears Mr. Mott's fonetic alphabet, which was reviewed in another form in OUR LANGUAGE for June. It is well printed and mounted, and the letters are large enough so that the chart can be used on the wall in teaching. Soon after the chart was received, a leaflet bearing "Mott's Script Letters" came to hand. In this latest form of his alphabet he has displaced *c* by *k*. His script forms for *ng* and *zh* are notably graceful, but sum of his other new letters, *e. g.*, capitals for *e* in "end", *u* in "up" the four sounds of *o*, *oi*, *th* and *dh*, and small letters for *ai* and *oi* have an awkward look that is not wholly due to newness. Still others, as *oi*, *th* and *dh*, capital *a* in "ask," and small *u* in "urge," can not be made neatly without taking the pen off the paper. There are also pairs that are too near alike. Perhaps if the designer had not striven so much for severe simplicity he would have done better in some cases. Sum of his new capitals, which he has made just like the small letters, would be improved by dropping the tick for joining the letter to the preceding one. This is a literally preposterous appendage for a capital.

Mr. Mott is evidently ambitious to win the credit of inventing all the new letters that are to be adopted in the coming fonetic alphabet. No one person will do this thing, and the sooner he and all other scheme-makers realize this fact the sooner a great waste of effort, which the reform

cause can ill spare, will be stopped. To throw aside forms that are already so widely accepted that they can not be supplanted in order to exploit one's own inventions is to put the interests of self above those of the reform. It should be said to Mr. Mott's credit that in his script alphabet he does not carry out this policy.

FOREIGN NEWS.

—Miss Laura Soames, whose work in fonetics is well known in England, has published the "Albany Phonetic Reader," No. 1, to be one of a series. (Swan Sonnenschein & Co., London, 47 pp., price 4d.)

—Another book on French fonetic spelling, *La Nouvelle Orthographe*, by Auguste Renard, with a preface by Louis Havet, has just been published. (Delagrave, Paris).

—*The Publishers' Circular* (London), in explaining why the International Copyright Law has not caused many English books to be set up in America, says: "Nor can the peculiarities of American spelling, about which there was a lively correspondence in the press last year, be said to affect the matter; for even in England a section of the press has adopted Cousin Jonathan's method of orthography."

—A scheme of reformed spelling devised by a committee of the Educational Institute of Scotland is illustrated and criticised at length in *The Phonetic Journal* for August 12th. It is an old-letter scheme, and in its vowel scale, which is based on the English values, *e* is used as a lengthener. Mr. John Macarthur, of New Monkland, Airdrie, a veteran reformer, is honorary secretary of the committee.

—While I was acting as Recording Secretary *pro tem* at the Chicago S. R. A. meeting, one of my elder brethren slipped around to my table and handed me the following cutting. I have been wondering ever since what I ever did to him.

A NICHE FOR HIM.

Father—"You have been at the foot of the spelling-class all the week, have you."

Dull Boy—"Yessir."

Father—"What's going to become of you when you grow up?"

"Dull Boy—"I was thinkin' mebbe I might get a job as Secretary or somethin' in a spellin' reform association."—*Good News*."

Our Language.

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Contributed articles and letters will be speld in the style of the paper, but space will be givn for one illustration of any uthr proposed fonetic scheme.

REFERENCE TABL.

am	end	ill	odd	up
ârm	thêy	police	ôld	rûde
càre	fèrn		òrb	bùrn
				fùll
	âi	âú	ôi	iú

chair, sharp, azhure, thin, dhen, sing.

THE FIVE DEBATABLE VOWELS.

IV. *a* in "care".

In one of the articles describing the English vowels, (O. L., March, '92,) sum fear was expresst that British reformers and we in America would not redily agree as to the treatment of this sound. For while it is generally uzed in this cuntry many English persons aparently substitute ê for it—pronouncing "bear", etc., so as to rime with "layer". I am glad to learn by the following letter from Prof. March that there is much less ground for this fear than I had suposed.

It is possibl that you may not hav noticed that Mr. Sweet, the hed of all things amung the university fonetists of England, describes the sound of *a* in "dare" as being such as the Americans say, and that German observers do the same. The great dictionary of Muret (English-Deutsch), now appearing in parts at Berlin, for exampl, which makes a specialty of English pronunciation, givs this *a* as the long of *a* in "man", writing it with a longus.

The English identification of it with the *a* of "fate" is a mistaken analysis in great part. The English scholars whom I hav heard speak and talk sound this *a* as Sweet says. F. A. MARCH.

On examining Nuttall's dictionary, which is a popular authority in England, I find that while the re-spelling of "bear" is "bayr", those of "pear," "wear," "lair," "care," etc., are "pare," "ware," "lare," "kare," etc., indicating that the ê sound has dictionary sanction in only a few of the words in question.

Assuming then, substantial agreement between England and America as to the status of this word we cum to the main question: Is the *a* in "care" (à in our Reference Tabl) enuf different from the *a* in "am" to need separate representation? According to the International Webster, à consists of *a* in "am" followd by a brief è as a vanish. Of cours it is not worth while to make any difference in common print merely to show that the vanish exists. That is a refinement of notation which we may wel leav to the

dictionaris, as we do in the cases of *ê* and *ô*. The practical question is, can words be represented in fonetic spelling so that they will not be mispronounced if we use the same sign for *à* and for *a* in "am"? What I understand to be the position of sum reformers was thus stated by Mr. Mott in a letter several months ago: "I conclude no new letter is needed for this sound, as the *a* of "am" followd by the semi-vowel *r* is sufficient to designate it. It is always followd by *r* which seems to prolong the the sound of *a*." If we took the Roman type (*a*) for the vowel in "am", the abuv idea would amount to a rule that (*a*) before *r* should be pronounced (*à*). This would prove false in a great number of cases, for Webster states expressly that "The *a* before *r* does not ordinarily take this sound when the *r* precedes a vowel in a following syllable of the word." Adherence to the abuv rule would, therefore caus the following words in fonetic spelling to be mispronounced: "char-i-ti; kom-par-i-sun, par-i, par-i-ti, kar-ij, ar-ô, bar-el, har-i," and uthers too numerus to mention. Then again there ar exceptions to the exceptions, as, "pàr-ent, gàr-ish, chà-i, wàr-i."

Ar there any uther arguments for or against a separate letter for *à*?

THE SPELLING OF SOME MEDICAL WORDS.

At the annual meeting of the American Medical Editors' Association for 1893, a paper with the abuv title was red by Dr. George M. Gould, of Philadelphia, author of a Medical Dictionary and several uther medical works. The paper was publisht in *The Medical News*, of which Dr. Gould is editor, also in the *Buffalo Medical and Surgical Journal*, and has receivd hearty commendation from a considerabl part of the medical press. The following extract contains its suggestions for simplified spelling:

"There is not a singl argument of value against a moderate and at least a small beginning of some kind of spelling-reform of our intolerabl English orthograpy. As regards the spelling of medical words, any argument has less weight than as regards uther words. We owe it to our profession to be progressiv in this respect—at least, not to be a ded-weight to the car of progress, and, at the very least, not to pull backward, like an over

obstinate hors when the wagon (with one *g /*) is pusht on to our heels. Wherefore, brethren wil you not assent to the litl advance alredy gaind, and wil you not assent to a few litl timid steps further? Every argument of logic and uniformity, and every motiv of good-wil and interest in progress is on this side.

Why shal we not drop the conjoind letter diphthongs in all words? Let us spel all our words drawn from the Greek *haina* with the singl vowel *e* insted of *æ*. Let us say *hemorrhage*, *hemostatic*, etc., clear thru the list. The same with all uther *ai's* usually speld *æ*, as in *orthopedic*, *pediatric*, *anesthetic*. The same with *æ*: let us accept *edema*, *celiotomy*, *diarrhea*, *fetus*, etc.

Let us adopt, with never a wry mouth, the 'American spelling' of *honor*, *center*, *meter*, (all the meters and liters!), *program*, and the rest.

Let us get a chart of the rules for spelling chemic* terms adopted by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and hang it in frunt of our desks, and never spel *iodid*, *sulfid*, *hydrid*, *morphin*, *chlorin*, etc., with more *e's* than we should. It is easier to spel them without the *e's*!

Let us be sensibl rather than conservativ."

READING MADE EASY.

I believ there ar differences of opinion among spelling reformers as to the advisability of teaching reformd spelling in our day scools, as a preliminary to teaching the ordinary spelling. Sum hold that knowledge of fonetic spelling would retard a pupil's progress in his subsequent study of English orthograpy. I am in a position to giv the actual results in two correspond-ing cases, the facts relating to which may be of service.

When my boy Willie was about three years of age, I obtaind from the Phonetic Institute, Bath, a set of fonetic reading books and large type alfabet cards, easy lessons, etc. With very litl trubl, after the alfabet was mastered, he red all the cards and made good progress with the books. When he was a litl over four he ceast these reading lessons, and the cards

*Dr. Gould also advocates dropping *al* from "chemical" and similar adjectivs. The U. S. Board on "Geographic" Names evidently agrees with him in this.

and books fell out of use. At this time he was beginning to use a pen. Gradually he became familiar with the forms of the ordinary letters, and when about five years of age he began to read the usual children's books. He was not sent to school till he was six, when he was put into Standard I. at a Board School. After being there from October till April, he was put into Standard II., and he has since continued to make good progress.

My second child, a girl, received no instruction in fonetic spelling. It would perhaps have chanced to have one child in the house learning ordinary spelling, and another the reformed spelling. Without perceiving the distinction, for there was no thought of making any experiment in the matter, the little girl was brought up precisely in the same fashion as the boy, excepting that she was not taught anything of fonetic spelling. She had an ordinary reading-book and copy books, and stayed at home until she was nearly seven years old, when she was sent to a Board School. She was put into Standard I. and experienced no difficulty in keeping up with her school companions in all subjects excepting reading, and in that subject she is, I am sorry to say, very backward. It is not because she is unintelligent but simply and solely because the ordinary spelling appears to bewilder her. She has a good ear and a quick memory, but the varying powers of the letters in the alphabet, as revealed in her lessons, seem to be incomprehensible, and her reading, instead of being a pleasure and a delight, seems a torment.

The above record shows (1) that the boy passed without difficulty from fonetic to ordinary reading; (2) that the girl, who had no experience in and no knowledge of the easier system, has found reading her most difficult subject, although in everything else she is making quick progress. The conclusion I have formed from these facts is, that it would be an advantage to have fonetic reading in all *infant* schools, and among all children till about 7 years of age. This would open their minds and prepare them for the ordinary system of reading which they might commence in Standard I. Should any reader desire to communicate with me by letter on this subject, the editor will furnish my name and address on receipt of a reply postcard. J. N.

—*The Phonetic Journal*, 6 May, 1893.

The Spelling of "Catalog."—Owing to the efforts of Mr. Melvil Dewey, for many years secretary, and since president, of the American Library Association, supplemented by the good sense of his fellow-members, the spelling of catalog without the useless *ue* at the end, has become common among librarians. Some months ago mention was made in this paper of an advertisement of the Overman Wheel Co. in *The Bicycling World* containing the brief spelling of this word. Since then the same spelling has been used in advertisements by the Coventry Machinists' Co., the Marble Cycle Mfg. Co., and the St. Louis Refrigerator and Wooden Gutter Co. There is good reason to believe that the cycles described in these "catalogs" do not carry any useless weight. An advertisement of the Remington Typewriter in recent issues of *The Phonographic Magazine* also contains an invitation to "send for an illustrated catalog," and a volume has just been issued by the U. S. Bureau of Education under the title "Catalog of the A. L. A. Library." All these things indicate that it will not be long before the simplified spelling of this word has as large a body of usage on its side as program has at present.

The American Idea.—There are some reformers who take pleasure in regarding the spelling-reform movement as a distinctively American affair. Several have devised fonetic alphabets to which they have given the name American; another has contrasted words in the present and in reformed spelling in parallel columns under the respective headings "British" and "American." Others have devised schemes and plans for reform either without regard to the fact that our language is spoken by a great people on the other side of the Atlantic or else without expectation that England could be brought to join in bringing about the change. This disposition needs reform quite as much as does our perversely spelling. A reform of English spelling in which England does not join should not be thought of. There are too many ties—literary, commercial, and other—between the United States and England to allow the erection of such a barrier between the two countries as a radical difference in spelling would be. The influential publishing houses, whose good-will and aid can not be dispensed with, would very

naturally make strenuous opposition to the change, for it would work grievous confusion with an important and growing part of their business. The profits arising from issuing English books here, from selling electrotype plates of American books to English publishers, and the circulation of American magazines in England would be seriously cut down. This check put upon the interchange of thought between the two countries would also be a detriment to the people at large, and there would be other disadvantages of social, political, and economic character. The adoption of the reform in England at the same time as in America is not hopeless. To be sure, the conservatism is denser in the "tight little island," but the scholars of England are as favorable as our own, and the influence of Germany and France is felt more than here. Therefore American reformers should seek counsel of their English brethren, and should adopt no measures or devices which are not calculated to win acceptance in the mother-country of our speech.

FOREIGN NEWS.

—Recent numbers of *The Phonetic Journal* have contained articles in favor of spelling reform that have appeared in the *South Wales Liberal* and the *Monthly Record of the Church of Scotland*.

—Within the last few years several books on the trade-societies called "guilds" have been published in England, in which the spelling "gild" has been used. The latter form does not appear in Webster. This is another of the many cases in which the reformed spelling is truer to etymology, for the word was "gilde" in Old English and "gild" in Anglo-Saxon.

Begin with the Schools.—Usage would certainly be less adverse to an orthographic reform if the pupils in the primary and secondary schools were given some latitude in cases where the authoritative spelling is manifestly contrary to reason and the history of the language.

In the actual condition of things the Academy could not or rather would not dare to make but a few amendments. In order that a future edition of the Dictionary should be put really upon a level with the progress of French philology, we must raise

up a generation which is not impregnated with our orthographic prejudices; we must take hold of the schools.—*Bulletin Trimestriel de la Société de Réforme Orthographique*.

—In *The White Mountain Echo* there appears an advertisement of a hotel on the top of Mount Moosilauke in which a "bridal path" up the mountain is mentioned as one of the attractions for guests. This looks like a funny blunder at first sight, but may be it isn't so far wrong as it seems.

—One of *The Athenæum's* reviews criticizing a book of travels in India says: "To write Hormuz for Ormuz, and again, as at p. 5, Bassora for Balsara, is utterly unpardonable. Of course there is no arbitrary rule in such matters. But neither is there such a thing as the right spelling of any word, what is called right spelling being no more than the wrong spelling of the majority, and wrong spelling the right spelling of the minority."

—Mr. William Waldorf Astor, in a report to the Tuxedo Club, mentions early records containing these spellings of Tuxedo:—Tuxedo (first in 1754), Tuxcito, Tuxetough, Tucksito, Tugseto, Tucsedo, Texedo, Toxedo, Duck Sider, Duck Cedar.—*The Engineering Magazine*.

Ingglis az She iz Spelt.

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REFERENCE TABL.

am	end	ill	odd	up
arm	thây	police	ôld	rûde
câre	fêrn		ôrb	bûrn
				full
	âi	âú	ði	iû
chair,	sharp,	azhure,	thin,	dhen, sing.

THE FIVE DEBATABLE VOWELS.

V. *e* in "fern" (è) and *u* in "burn" (û).

The readers of OUR LANGUAGE seem disposed to admit à to a place in the reformd alfabet, but in order to giv the objectors, if any, plenty of time to put in their arguments we wil wait another month before saying the final word on that sound.

Meanwhile, so as not to lose time, let us take up the last two sounds whose admission to the alfabet needs to be considerd. Very soon we shal hav decided upon all the sounds to be represented and the next thing wil be to determin how we ar to represent them. Shal we include both these sounds, one of them, or neither? The majority of English-speaking persons do

not uze both. The most common practice is to uze the ù sound not only in words like "burn" but also in words like "fern," "fir," and "myrtle"; sum persons restrict this sound to the words speld with *u*, employing è in those words speld with *e*, *i*, and *y*; stil uthers uze è in all these classes of words. In any case of divers pronunciation a standard fonetic spelling ought to follow the more general usage. Here it is evidently the practice of the majority to make no distinction between the vowels in "fern," "fir," "myrtle," "burn," hense the reformd alfabet need not hav but one letter to represent them. This by no means forbids those who do make a distinction in their speech from continuing to do so, and if their practice ever becums the more general one, the spelling should change so as to conform to it. This is precisely a par'a'el case to the use of á (in "ask"). Before assenting to the abuv decision those who uze the è sound may wish to know whether the "one letter" is to be a modified *e* or a modified *u*. This matter must hav due consi'leration when we cum to choose the letter for the uthr vowels. Mr. McKinlay has expresst the opinion that a separate letter for è may be dispenst with provided that *e* be uzd for this sound as wel as for the vowel in "end". He writes:

"I am under the impression that we can uze *e* inst'd of è with perfect safety. It occurs only before *r*, or more correctly speaking, before *z*. And there is no difficulty in knowing whether the printed *r* following *e* belongs to the *e* or belongs to the vowel following it."

And now assuming that we are to represent è by the same letter as for either *u* in "burn" or *e* in "end", can we do without a special letter for *u* in "burn"? On this point Mr. McKin'ey writes; "In my opinion this sound is sufficiently like *u* to enable us to get along without the letter ù." From a letter received from Mr. Lyon when the first of the "debatable vowels" was under discussion, I take the following:

"I do not deny but that there is an intermediate sound betwixt *e* [in "end"] and *u* [in "up"], but I think that where you generally use è (fèrn) that it is a short *u*. I think that the vowels *a*, *e*, *o*, *u* followed by *r* are the same as those that are not. It seems to me as if the *u* in "urn" is the same as that in "up", but that the vocal organs begin to change to *r* before they have finished the *u*. If you spell "burr" *bu-ur*, the second *u* is the same as the first except as affected by the *r*."

In considering the questions raised in this article it should be remembered that both (*e*) and (*è*), both (*u*) and (*ù*) occur before *r*, and that in fonetic spelling syllabification would afford no guidance. Readers may be assisted in forming their opinions by seeing how many of the following words they can pronounce correctly "at sight;" Veri, buró, huri, kurish, mertl, meri, jurnal, konfering, riferibl, díttering, kurent, turet, okureus, gerlish, berdi, persun, sluring, perish, nurish, stering.

MR. MOTT REPLIES.

3328 WABASH AV., CHICAGO, ILL.
OCTOBER 21ST 1893.

EDITOR OUR LANGUAGE.

Please publish in OUR LANGUAGE the following in reply to the article in the August number in relation to my ambition, and "Mott's Script Letters".

I have no ambition to invent a single new letter in the coming fonetic alphabet, that I am not willing to lay aside at any time for the good of the cause, though there is no more worthy ambition for any one to have than that which OUR LANGUAGE ascribes to me. I have repeatedly urged spelling reformers to cease contention over questions of no importance to spelling reform, and to adopt a full fonetic alphabet. I am ready to approve such an alphabet, and have been ready to do so for forty years, though it may contain no new letter found in my alphabet.

Each new script letter, in my alphabet, can be written rapidly and formed neatly without lifting the pen from the paper, with but one exception, namely; to dot the single sign for diphthong *ai*.

The tick attached to some of the capital letters appears by request of a teacher of penmanship, as a guide to indicate the starting point and may be dropped at any time.

The masses use script letters, instead of type, to form words, therefore a copy of any full fonetic alphabet, which enlarges the English alphabet without destroying it, placed in the hands of children of school age will be of more value to the cause of spelling reform than tens of printed matter, though the latter is indispensable, and the general use of any such script alphabet would soon eliminate objectionable forms, and result in the invention of more desirable ones to take their place.

Will send one of your readers be kind enough to give me the address of Prof. Wilcox, who issued the call for the Philadelphia meeting of the S. R. A. in 1876?

JOHN M. MOTT.

FOREIGN NEWS.

—At the meeting of the British Association there was exhibited a system of fonetic print for the blind which is thus described in the London *Times*:

"Another exhibit in the same room was that of a venerable and enthusiastic sympathizer with the blind in their efforts to learn to read. Leaving those who can see to struggle with the anomalies of our spelling, Mr. Morris, of Belgravia, proposes to introduce for the use of the blind a complete fonetic alphabet, every symbol of which shall always have the same value. He exhibited some of the letters made in glass; and he contends that, while the simplicity of his plan would greatly facilitate reading by the blind, it would considerably reduce the bulk and the cost of the books in raised characters, and to that extent widen the range of literature for the blind. The father of Mr. Morris was a Congregational minister who lost his sight, and this has fired Mr. Morris with his eagerness to do what he can for the blind."

—The *Scientific American* for 17th June mentioned the patenting, by Robert S. Avery, of a design for a font of fonetic printing type consisting of 42 characters.

THE ENGLISH GRUNT.

Of all the sounds employd by pigs and men to express thought or feeling, there is probably nun more widely known than the grunt. Its uses are manifold and it has consequently becum differentiated into numerus varietis. There is the grunt of satisfaction that is herd when a helthy porker is lying at eas and receiving the caresses of a ruf stick pusht back and forth upon his cuticl. There is the grunt which accompanis and aparently alleviates exertion, aluded to by Shakspeare in Hamlet's conundrum:

"Who would fardels bear,
To grunt and sweat under a weary life?"

This grunt is herd to perfection when it cumis in cadence from the diaframs of estimabl foreigners engaged in making borings in geological formations by means of the steel bars calld colloquially "jumpers." But with all its utility and popularity the grunt has until recently lackt dignity. This lack, however, certain filologists hav attempted to supply. A disposition has developd in several localitis to rais the grunt to a peerage amung the sounds of the English language, with the title of "the neutral vowel," and an inverted *e* (*ə*) for its ensign. This sound is formd by forcing breath thru the throat without the least exertion of the organs of articulation, and it may take the place of almost any vowel in a sylabl with slight stress. It is herd in the speech of those who would hav been calld sluvently speakers a few years ago, also in that of good speakers in lazy moments. But certain filologists, with their heds full of their studis of "sonetic decay" and the changes that English past thru in unletterd times, seizd upon this corrupt utterance as a legitimate development. They hav adopted the ugly thing, fosterd, and named it. What tho the spred of education and of reading habits had secured sumwhat of fixity for English speech, these fine scholars were redy to unsetl it again. They were aching to be litl Columbuses and discover sumthing. If their efforts fastend an aded harshness upon our language they cared not. So when they herd sum one say "syluhbl," or "sosiuhly," or "tuhgethuh," they accepted these vulgarisms as the newest standard English, and made no effort to withstand them. If the whole body of English filologists should follow in the same path, we might expect to be told next that

present participls no longer end in *ing*, but that "lookin," "livin," etc., ar the corect forms, while the antiquated pronunciation of "senate," "villain," "new," "organ," etc., had been displaced by "sennit," "villin," "noo," "awgun," etc. The "neutral vowel" is a fungus that grows out of decay; let us not foster it but sweep it away and all its tribe after it!

NEW FASES OF THE SPELLING QUESTION.

It is curius to notice that the new American copyright law seems likely to hav the efect of drawing the attention of the English public to the peculiaritis of our spelling. Alredy a controversy has arisen in the columns of the *Times*, with reference to what is sumtimes styld "American spelling." A book has lately been publisht in this cuntry, printed from plates imported from America; and having been originally "composed" in the United States, the Transatlantic custum of spelling *center*, *theater*, *honor*, and similar words in an un-English fashun, was of cours followd. The apearence of these spellings in an English book shockt sum conservativ readers, one of whom followd the good old custum of writing to the *Times*. The complaint elicited a reply from Mr. Marston, the wel-known publisher, who began by asking whether our own English spelling is "so absolutely uniform and perfect that we can aford to throw stones," and who ended by observing that for his own part he had not experienced "that thril of excruciating torture which sum over-sensitiv English readers seem to hav felt at finding the *u* dropt out of *honour*." * * *

When Mr. Marston put his inquiry as to whether English spelling is absolutely uniform and perfect, he askt a pertinent quesition. He states that he remembers when he was yung, those eminent English authords, Julius and Charles Hare, chopping off the *eds* from all possibl verbs in the past tense, and substituting *t's*, as *wisht*, *walkt*, and *talkt*. And he further points out that the late Lord Tennyson, in a short prose articl quoted by Mr. Knowles in a recent number of the *Nineteenth Century*, wrote *exprest* insted of *expressed*. The same thing has been done by many authords; and if a divergent practice is tolerated in these words, why not in such words as *center*, *theater*, and *honor*? It is a fact that many authords do not bow down to

the arbitrary and inflexible laws of the composing room. The letter *u* in words ending in *our* is very generally dropt in writing, altho it remains in print in this cuntry. Mr. George Meredith seeks uniformity in the spelling of a certain class of words by a plan which sum peopl regard as eccentric; and he insists upon the printers adopting his spelling and breaking their own laws. His peculiarity consists in retaining the final *e* of a syllabl when followed by *ing*. Thus in the pages of his novels one cums across such spellings as *robeing*, *apeing*, *jibeing*, *lodgeing*, *pipeing*, *toneing*, *quoteing*, etc. On the same plan he writes *desireable*. In his latest book he givs *defense* in one place. All this represents a revolt against an authority as arbitrary as that which dictates the shapes of ladies' dresses and bonnets.—*The Phonetic Journal*, 4 Feb., 1893.

FOREIN CORRESPONDENCE.

NEW MONKLAND, AIRDRIE, SCOTLAND.
SEPTEMBER 23, 1893.

EDITOR OF OUR LANGUAGE.

SIR—I hav this dae reseevd a kopy ov No 5. ov uer paeper publisht under the abuv tietyl for which pleaz aksept best thankz. I think I hav seen and konsiderd almost every skeem ov speling reform that haz issued from the English Press. The long kontinued examinaeshon ov theez haz konvinstd me and the komite ov the Ednekeshonal Instituet ov Skotland, with hoom I hav been aktng for the last three yearz, that no skcem ov speling reform kan hav eny chans ov adopshon unless it iz baesd on the preznt speling. The alteraeshonz must also be baesd on jeneral roolz which must be eezily rememberd and eezily understood bi awl hoo kan reed the kurent so-kawld orthografy. The sistem we propoez konformz with theez prinsipelz and departz so litel in apeerans from kurent speling az too kawz no difikulty too English reed+rz. I send u bi snem post az this leter a kopy ov the *Educational News*, which iz the organ ov the Inst tnet, in which I giv the roolz for ovr propoezd nue speling. Euy chaenj in speling which kanot be gieded bi jeneral roolz wil only maek konfuezyon wurs konfownded than at preznt. I hav prezuemd too riet u this short leter on

seing uer remark that "spaes wil be given for wun ilustraeshon ov eny uther propoezd fonetik skeem." I am &c.

JOHN MACARTHUR.

30 SEPTEMBER, 1893.

EDITOR OF OUR LANGUAGE:

SIR—I hav recently met with the spelling of "program" by Walter Scott and Thomas Carlyle and in three of the large London dailis. Scott also has the spelling of "lanch" and Lytton of "brusk." The Century appendix spelling has been anticipated by many of our old writers. Lyndsay, the poet profet of the reformation, wrote a "Dialog concerning the Monarchie," and "tongue" is deprived of its meaningless apendage in "The Faery Queene". That poem also systematically avoids the diphthong *ea* to express the sound of short *e* as in "brest, hed, dred," &c, and has also the following simplifications, "hart, corage, yong, soverain." I hav also observd in current British literature "herse, stedfast," the restoration of *k* in "kalender, kelt, skeptic, kephalic" and its compounds, and a decided tendency "to spel Americanly."

Yours faithfully

A. Z.

—J. N. Eno, A. M., contributes to the *Journal of Education* for 15th September an artiel on "Etymological Spelling" in which he givs the Anglo-Saxon forms of a large number of words now speld with *gh*, and shows that the *g* obscures their derivati+n. He states that the *t* in nearly all words speld with *tch* is equally an intruder, and that "the *e* in *ile, ive*, merely encumbers the word when the preceding *i* is short."

Ingglisch az She iz Spelt.

SAMPLES OF THE SPELLING OF SHAKSPERE, CHAUCER, ARTEMUS WARD, HOSEA BIGLOW, CERTAIN FOURTH CLASS POSTMASTERS, AND MANY LESSER LIGHTS.

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The amended spellings jointly aproved by the English and American Philological Societies and publisht as an appendix o the Century Dictionary ar followd in this paper.

Contributed articles and letters wil be speld in the style of the paper, but space wil be givn for one illustration of any uthr proposed fonetic scheme.

REFERENCE TABL.

am	end	ill	odd	up
ârm	thêy	polîce	ôld	rûde
câre		ôrb	bûrn	full
âi	âú	ôì	iû	

chair, sharp, azure, thin, dhen, sing.

THE FIVE DEBATABLE VOWELS.

VI. Conclusions upon à, è, and ù

It is hard to strike a balance between the arguments for and against distinguishing à, becaus they ar so few. On the one hand is the fact that a few words pronounced differently would be speld just alike if both à and a in "am" wer represented by the same letter. Furthermore, no one could tel from the spelling which of two ways was the right way to pronounce any word containing the letter (a) before r. On the uthr hand about the only argument is that the difference between these two vowels is not great enuf to require different car-

acters. The only letters on this point that hav been receivd favor the distinction, and both suggest writing à as a diputhong. Mr Lockling writes:

"You ask in September O. L., 'Is the a in "care" enuf different from the a in "am" to need separate representation?' Yes, by all means. It is a long vowel and bears the same relation to a in 'am' as a in 'fall' bears to a in 'what,' u in 'urn' to u in 'us,' a in 'arm' to a in 'ask,' or any uthr long vowel to its corresponding short one."

Mr. Stuart suggests a mode of representing this sound, which shal be considered later.

The reasons in favor of distinguishing à seem to preponderate slightly, but we can not regard this decision as being so unquestionabl as most of the uthers that hav been arrived at in these columns.

With regard to è, the fact that it is not in general use among good speakers of English is decisiv against it.

The case of ù is similar to that of à. The difference between this vowel and its nearest neighbor is regarded as wide by sum and slight by uthers. Local pronunciation probably has sumthing to do with this. One uthr consideration is that sum persons who would be willing to see words like "myrtle, fir, fern" speld "mùrtle, fùr, fùrn" could hardly endure the spellings "murtle, fur, furn" (u as in "up"). Here also the weight of argument seems to be slightly in favor of the distinction

The complete verdict on the Five Debatable Vowels is, then, to retain a in "care" and u in "burn," discarding a in "ask," e in "fern," and o in "obey."

THE MAKE-UP OF THE REVISED ALFABET.

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2. The alfabet should contain symbols for 14 vowels, namely, those in the following words: *am, carc, arm, end, they, ill, mien, odd, orb, old, up, burn, full, rude*.

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3. The following sevnteen letters should be retained for the respectiv consonants

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1. The reformed English alphabet should contain symbols for 24 consonants, namely, those represented by the italic letters and digraphs in the following words: *boy, day, fame, gay, hate, jar, kite, lie, me, none, pea, raw, see, tie, vain, we, year, zeal, chair, sharp, azure, then, thin, sing*. It is not advisable, at present, even if correct, to regard *ch* as composed of *t-sh*, or *j* as composed of *d-zh*.

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which they most commonly represent at present: *b, d, f, g, h, j, l, m, n, p, r, s, t, v, w, y, z*.

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THE MAKE-UP OF THE REVISED ALFABET.

In the cours of the past two years varius unsetld questions concerning the future form of the English alfabet hav been discust in OUR LANGUAGE, and all the reasons that could be brought out for this or that decision have been put on record. By this means it has been shown in each case on which side the weight of argument lay. The proper decision has now been arrived at for so many of these questions that it is worth while to bring our results together so that we may see how much has been done, and how much remains to be done.

Of cours only a small portion of the whole number of spelling reformers has taken part in this discussion, but a few wel informd persons can state the arguments on a givn question as fully as ten times the number. In order to find out what considerations hav weight with a body of peopl it is no more needful to question every one than it is to eat the whole of a barrel of flour in order to find out its quality. The business man, the filologist, the teacher, the printer, the stenografer, the fysician, the clergyman, and the lawyer hav all been represented in our discussions, the arguments that hav weight with all these classes of reformers hav been brought out, so that it is not likely that any of our decisions would hav been reverst if ten times as many disputants had givn their views.

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recommend it. "Mr. Grove," says a Radical newspaper, "has been returned for North West Ham on a *program* which is, we trust, the earnest of a great effort to lift the grievous burdens of life from the shoulders of the people of London." We shall rejoice at the lifting of any burdens from anyone. But it is too bad to lay so grievous a burden as that vile vulgarism *program* upon any nation. We have not deserved it, and it cannot succor those who inflict the sore grievance. Indeed, it will not profit them."

The Star replies to this transparent nonsense:—The theology of *Church Bells* may be unexceptionable, but its filology is, to say the least, weak. *Program* has the authority of Scott and Carlyle and every writer who used it in the last century. It has precisely the same "meaning, bent, and virtue" as all the other compounds of *gram* (diagram, telegram, &c.) which are every one of them spelled with a single "m." As to its being "a vile vulgarism," the word [the spelling] that Scott and Carlyle used can hardly be said to be vulgar in the sense of debased, nor is that form of it vulgar in the sense of being common, though its use is rapidly spreading. *Church Bells* notwithstanding.—*The Phonetic Journal*.

Phonetic Spelling in Anthropological Work.—The following item is from an account of the annual meeting of the anthropological section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, held in September:

The report of the Committee on Uniformity in the Spelling of Barbaric and Savage Languages and Race Names, consisting of Mr. Francis Galton (chairman), Dr. E. B. Tylor, Prof. A. C. Haddon, Mr. C. W. Bloxam, Mr. Ling Roth, and Mr. C. E. Peek (secretary), recommended that the system of orthography already adopted by the Royal Geographical Society, the Admiralty, the Foreign Office, the Colonial Office, the War Office, and the Government of the United States of America, should be adopted by the British Association in the titles of the papers submitted to Sections E. and H. As regarded barbaric languages the committee were not prepared to offer other suggestions than that—"(1) The above-named system should be adopted, so far as it is applicable; (2) that, in selecting *symbols to express additional sounds, endeavor should be made to conform to the*

usage of previous authors; (3) that explanatory examples of the signification of those symbols be given by the writer; (4) that the secretary of the British Association shall direct the attention of those travelers who may hereafter receive many grants from the Association to the above resolutions."—*The Times* (London).

Subscriptions.—Payments from the following persons have been received since the last acknowledgment was made:

Miss Edna C. Albro.	Chas. Lerom.
F. J. Child	x A. H. Mackay.
Mrs. G. Davis.	J. E. Parsons.
D. Kimball (patron).	S. N. Stewart.
	C. Woodward.

The whole number is 176—the highest yet reached.

—The seventh number of *Spelling* was received early in November. It opens with an article entitled "Regulation not Revolution" advocating gradual progress in spelling-reform in the line of reducing irregularities to rule. This is followed by an account of "Arrested Spelling Reforms"—simplifications introduced by recent and earlier English authors. The final report of the American Association's committee on chemical terms is reprinted, there is an account of the three conferences on simplified spelling held by the Anthropological Society of Washington, and a report of the 1893 meeting of the Spelling Reform Association at Chicago. In an article entitled "Help one Reform by making an Other" the use of a decimal line on prescription slips is advocated. This would remove the only excuse for retaining the silent *-me* at the end of the word "gram." This number contains also a circular address by Prof. March to the editors of college students' papers, the resolution of the Modern Language Association recommending amended spelling, and notes on various favorable articles in the public press. The number is a substantial contribution to the literature of the reform.

I learn *via* Bath, England, that an article against spelling-reform appeared in the *New York Evening Sun* for the 14th September, and in the *Pittsburg Dispatch*. The *Medical Press and Circular*, an English journal, has recently denounced the simplifications in medical spelling proposed by Dr. G. M. Gould. It is gratifying to see that our opponents have not forgotten us.

Our Language.

DEVOTED TO

SPELLING-REFORM NEWS and THE DISCUSSION OF QUESTIONS IN ALFABETICS

Published Monthly, at 3 Bond Street, New York,
By FREDERIK A. FERNALD.

Price, 50 Cents a Year.

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No. 9.

The club rate for OUR LANGUAGE is Ten copies for \$4.00 or Five copies for \$2.00.

Postal Money Orders should be made payable at Station A, New York.

No charge for postage is made within the Postal Union.

The amended spellings jointly aproved by the English and American Philological Societies and publiht as an appendix to the Century Dictionary ar followd in this paper.

Contributed articles and letters will be speld in the style of the paper, but space will be givn for one illustration of any uthr proposed fonetic scheme.

A DIGRAF ALFABET.

There ar several contingencis in which a reformd alfabet without new letters would hav its uses. First, in the time of working and waiting which must elaps before the spelling-reform is accomplisht and fully inaugurated, it would be useful to enabl printers having only the old type to print in regular, if not wholly fonetic, spelling. Second, suppose a competent Anglo-American joint commission should be apointed next year and should decide in favor of a reform but against introducing, for the present generation, any letters not uzed in uthr modern languages. Reformers ought to hav workt out and agreed upon a scheme of reform that would be the best possibl within the abuv limit. Third, the subject of an old letter alfabet merits attention becaus sum of our own number, while eager for the abolition of silent letters, and for representing each sound always in the same way, think that new letters should be left entirely out of sight for the present at least. They maintain that the general public can be brought to accept an old-letter scheme a hundred years sooner than

one involving new letters, and that after the former was inaugurated a further advance to the new letters could be made all the easier, if it was thought desirabl.

Two ways of making a givn number of letters represent a larger number of sounds ar in use in modern languages—markt letters and digrafs. The former ar largely uzed in the languages of the south of Europe, while the northern languages hav preferd the latter. English is more closely alied to the northern languages than to the suthern so we ar not surprised to find that its alfabetic evolution so far has been towards digrafs and that no marks ar uzed in the common spelling to modify the sounds of letters. The path of least resistance for making further changes obviusly would be an extension of this practice, tho markt letters hav their advantages.

Six consonants and nine vowels need to be provided with symbols. Four of the consonants hav digrafs regularly uzed in common spelling, namely, *ch*, *sh*, *th*, and *ng*; for the uthr two there ar digrafs that ar generally accepted in old-letter fonetic spelling—*dh* and *zh*.

The vowels can not be disposed of so easily. First, we must assign values to the five vowel letters. If digrafs ar to be uzed, probably all reformers wil agree that they should be uzed for the "long" vowels, reserving the singl letters for the "short" vowels as far as they wil go. The fourteen vowels that we hav decided to recognize may be classified as follows:

Short, *am*, *end*, *ill*, *odd*, *up*, *full*.

Long, *arm*, *care*, *they*, *police*, *orb*, *old*, *burn*, *rude*.

Which of the two short u's shal hav the singl letter? The one that must be writn the oftener, which is *u* in "up", leaving the less frequent sound to be represented by a digraf.

Now to choose the digrafs for one short and eight long vowels. All digrafs ar. in the main, arbitrary, yet sum aproach to system is desirabl. We hav agreed to conform to Continental usage in our vowel scale so far as possibl. In Continental languages we find digrafs formd for long vowels by dubling the letters standing for the short vowels, as in German "paar," "Seele," "Boot," and largely in Dutch. Another way is by adding *e*, as in the German *ae*, *oe*, and *ue*. For the first of the long vowels there is probably no better digraf than the dubld letter, *aa*; thus, "aarm," "faadher". For the second Mr. Stuart proposes *ae*; sinse this vowel actually has a vanish in *e*, the combination proposed is strictly accurate. We might utilize the joined *æ*, which is found in most fonts of type, the only objection being that *æ* is uzed for a different, tho not much different, sound (*a* in "am") in Anglo-Saxon. For the next sound we should take *ee*, if we wer anxious for strict uniformity. But as a digraf alfabet would probably be most uzed in the transition period, when the *ee* of "meet," etc., was stil in use, it is desirabl to avoid the confusion that would arise from the diverse usage. Besides we hav an excellent alternativ in the *ei*, as in "veil," which again is strictly accurate, for this vowel has a vanish in short *i*. For the fourth long vowel there is no serius objection to *ii*. For the fifth it seems necessary to make an arbitrary choice, and probably *oa* has as few objections as anything. For "long *o*" there is the same objection to the *oo* as there was to *ee* abuv, hense the best combination wil be *oe*, as in "foe," or the joind *œ*, if a singl type is preferd. Here for the third case the second letter may be regarded as representing a vanish. The digraf for *u* in "burn" again must be arbitrary, so let us take *ua*, which has no confusing associations. The last long vowel, and the short vowel in "full" ar both represented by *oo* in the old spelling. In the digraf alfabet why not uze *uu* for the former and *uo* for the latter?

The spelling with these vowel digrafs may seem clumsy to sum reformers, but it would be no worse than the present spelling of pain, day, break, veil, fair, bear, haul,

law, feet, beam, receive, believe, die, roam, low, door, doom, book, blood, touch, journal, etc., etc. A sampl paragraf follows:

Bai a fœnetik alfaabet a chaild mei bii toat dhiaartov riiding—not fluentli but wel-boeth in fœnetik and in oardineiri buoks, in thrii munths, ai oftñ in twenti aurz ov thurœ instrukshun—a taask hwich iz rærli akomplisht in thrii yîurz ov toil bai dhi œld alfaabet. Hwot faadhuar oar tiichuar wil not gladli heil and uarnestli wuark foar dhis greit buun tuo edyunkeshun—dhis paurfuol maashiin foar dhi difiuzhun ov nolej? Dhis paraagraf konteinz oal dhi saundz in dhi Ingghlish langgueij.

The Second Bureau of Education Circular.—The circular of Information No. 8, 1893, issued by the U. S. Bureau of Education is devoted to the spelling-reform. It has been writn by Prof. Francis A. March, and is a revision and enlargement of the author's pamphlet publishd by the Bureau in 1881. The new circular gives the history of the movement in the American Philological Association, the Spelling Reform Association, and uther organizations for a reform of English spelling, from 1874 to 1893. It records the action of bodis of teachers, of several State legislatures, and the efforts that hav been made to secure action by the National Congress. The recent official regulation of geografical names, and authoritativ revision of chemical words ar also set forth, and the favorabl action of a part of the public press is noted. There is an account of the work for systematic spelling done by the Philological Society, the Royal Geographical Society, and uther learned bodis in England between 1876 and 1885. Sumthing is told of similar efforts for reform in the French and German languages, and there ar paragraphs on Dutch, Swedish, Danish, Portuguese, and on the attempt to introduce the Latin alfabet in Japan. The Letter of Transmittal, from the Commissioner of Education, prefixed to the pamphlet is much more than the uzual formal note. Dr. Harris has givn in it much conclusiv evidence as to the value of fonetic print in teaching beginners to read English. The list of words afected by the Joint Rules of the English and American Philological Societies is apended. The editor of OUR LANGUAGE has been invited to furnish a list of his subscribers so that a copy of this Circular might be sent to each one, and has gladly done so.

Albany Phonetic Readers.—By Laura Soames. Swan Sonnenschein & Co., London. Price, Nos. 1 and 2, 4d.; No. 3, 8d.

A very attractive series of readers in fonetic print has cum to OUR LANGUAGE from England. They are the first three of a series already in use in common print—the “Holborn Practical Readers”—turned into fonetic spelling. The alphabet used by Miss Soames, which she calls simply “An English Phonetic Alphabet,” consists of the usual twenty-four consonants with the addition of *wh*, sixteen vowels, and five diphthongs. The fifth diphthong is *iū* in an unaccented syllable. As her alphabet is designed merely for school use, she supplements the twenty-three available letters of the old alphabet in the easiest way possible—by digraphs, by utilizing *æ* and *œ*, the circumflex accent for five vowels, and the apostrophe for one. The following is a sample of her print:

Ben went with his sister Fæn tu dha si-said for a week. It was dhêar foest visit.

It will be seen that Miss Soames's books could not be used in the United States, for they represent a style of pronunciation which is less strict in regard to the articulation of *r* and differs also in a few minor points from that taught in American schools. This pronunciation, which represents the colloquial speech of the south of England, including London, allows the obliterating of *r* before another consonant. Thus Miss Soames spells “far” with an *r*, but “fām” (farm) without; a word ending in *r* drops it when *z* is added to form the plural, e. g. “stâr,” “stâz”; *r* can not stand before a consonant even in the next syllable, “fiar” adding “full” becomes “fiarf”. Neither American nor British dictionaries recognize this pronunciation, and although it is heard in the United States we do not teach our children that it is standard English.

Miss Soames deserves great credit for the valuable work she is doing in advancing the fonetic print method of teaching reading. She has devised a fonetic alphabet that is well adapted for school use and is within the resources of any printing office that is equipped for “book work.” She has prepared these readers and got them issued by a well known publishing firm, and has a “Teacher's Manual” and a “Child's Key” in preparation. She has prepared a Prospectus setting forth the advantages of the fonetic method clearly and concisely. She has, furthermore, after a trial of the sys-

tem, secured from the English School Board a permission applying to all Public Elementary Schools for “scholars presented in Standard I to be examined in reading books of fonetic notation.” Her work exhibits everywhere both energy and good sense, and the fact that so much has been accomplished in England by one woman gives reason to believe that if the Spelling Reform Association in this country should turn its attention to this matter it could accomplish important results.

—The first of the two volumes of the Funk & Wagnalls Co.'s “Standard Dictionary” has now been issued. The services of excellent men have been secured for the chief parts of the work, notably for the spelling and pronunciation. The publishers in their effort to out-do all the other dictionaries with respect to each progressive feature, have not neglected to go beyond the Century Dictionary in exploiting spelling-reform. They have been shrewd enough to see that the reform is to be one of the triumphs of the near future, and have hightened their car to our wheel of progress. The Standard Dictionary uses in its respelling for pronunciation the alphabet of the Spelling Reform Association, changed only by substituting *ê* and *î* for these two vowels with the macron. The fine distinctions not required outside of a dictionary are provided for by means of additional diacritics. In the vocabulary, where there are two ways of spelling the same word, both by recognized authorities, preference is given to the simpler form. In all words fully Anglicized *e* is preferred to *æ*, and *œ*. The changes in spelling and pronunciation of chemical terms approved by the American Association have been adopted. The amended spellings of the Philological Society are inserted in their alphabetical places. In the appendix, to form part of the second volume, geographical names will appear in the systematic spelling of the U. S. Board.

OUR LANGUAGE would fail in its duty if it did not give spelling-reformers outside of New York city a word of caution against making too much of this association of the Funk & Wagnalls Co. with the cause of spelling-reform. The business methods of this firm in regard to reprinting uncopyrighted foreign books have been such as to excite the contempt of thousands of persons who are acquainted with the customs of the publishing business. A libel suit brought by Isaac K. Funk, D. D., the head of the

firm and "editor-in-chief" of the "Standard Dictionary," against *The Evening Post* (New York) for charging his firm with being what is known as "pirate" publishers ended in a verdict for the *Post*, 17th Feb., 1893.

—Every one who has past along the west side of Union Square, New York, since last June has noticed the sign "*Prince, Fotografer*," in large script letters, running across the front of the building on the north corner of Sixteenth St. The words "fotograf" and "fotografer" are spelt with f's also in smaller signs at the entrance of the building and in Mr. Prince's cases of fine samples. The same spelling has been seen in the signs on his Washington studio at Eleventh St. and Pennsylvania Av., for the past three years. The editor of OUR LANGUAGE has interviewed Mr. Prince about his spelling and learned that he uses it simply as a business matter, to arrest the attention of passers by. He has had plenty of evidence that it is effective for this purpose, and none of his customers have ever intimated that it was distasteful to them.

—*The Phonographic Magazine*, edited and published by Jerome B. Howard, will discontinue the use of the "Joint Rule" spelling in its volume for 1894. In announcing the change Mr. Howard says: "The prime mission of the *Magazine* is to spread the gospel of phonography. We have long been aware that it has failed of accomplishing this mission in certain quarters because of its very slightly amended spelling. * * * Now much as we love spelling-reform, we love phonography more, and since the one has proved a barrier to the other we have decided to remove it."

—The well-known educational publishers, E. T. Kellogg & Co., New York, have taken an interest in Mrs. Burnz's "Step by Step Primer" in Pronouncing print and, by permission, are advertising it as "The Self-teaching Primer"; a name which it is thought will more directly recommend this valuable primary reader to the notice of the teachers. They have published a well-arranged circular giving a specimen page of the Primer, and quotations from the many complimentary notices of it given by experienced teachers and the press.

—Under the title "Reading," two articles by Rhoda Lee have appeared in *The Educational Journal* (Toronto), describing the method of teaching by the use of fonetic print.

—An article on "The Shorter Spelling," signed R. L. B., occupies nearly three columns in the *Journal of Education* for 9 Nov. 1893. It begins with the statement that "Two recent 'programs' have been sent out under the authority of the Massachusetts State Board of Education." Inquiry of one of its agents elicited the fact that "The State Board tolerates 'program,' 'quartet,' 'quintet,' and so on." The topics touch upon in the article are the present status of the reform, the power of school committees, other matters more important (?) now, and the belief that the shorter method is sure to be adopted generally. A later number of the *Journal* contains a letter signed B. F. T. criticizing some minor points in this article.

FOREIN NEWS.

—In the *Westminster Gazette* for 2nd Feb., 1893, was an article by Grant Allen, in his usual racy style, on "The Struggle for Life among Languages." In telling what good prospects English has to become the language of the world, he says that it "has thrown overboard most of the nonsensical ballast we know as grammar," and continues, "It is only weighted now by its grotesque and ridiculous spelling—one of the absurdest among all the absurd English attempts at compromise. The pressure of the newer speakers will compel it to make jetsom of that lumber also; and then the tug of Shelly and Newton will march onward unopposed to the conquest of humanity."

—Under the title "Method Javal," Gaston Tissandier, the able French author, contributes to *La Nature* an account of a mode of teaching reading devised by Dr. Javal, who is a member of the Académie de Médecine. It consists, first, in using a pronouncing print very like that of Mrs. Burnz, described in O. L. a few months ago. Silent letters are indicated by outline type, and letters having exceptional sounds are marked; thus an (s) under t means that the letter has the sound of s. Syllables are separated by vertical lines. Script type is used, which has advantages of its own.

—A pamphlet entitled "Shorthand Criticisms," devoted to showing the advantages which Takigraphy has over other systems, has been published by Mr. D. Kimball, of Chicago. It is printed in amended spelling with an explanation at the head of the first page. Mr. Kimball has used simplified spelling also in other pamphlets that he has issued in connection with his business of shorthand teaching and publishing.

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CAN WE UTILIZE C, Q, AND X?

When the English alfabet has been re-vised there wil be three of the letters now in it whose present occupations wil be gone entirely. What shal be done with them? They can be simply dropt from scool-books and dictionaris and that would be an end of them as far as scool-children and readers of English ar concernd. But they can not be dropt from the printer's case. Every printer must continue to buy the type for these caracters, in capitals and small letters, Roman and Italic, for all the sizes and styles uzed in his office. They wil stil be needed for setting up frases and quotations from the Latin and other languages. Hense none of the new letters to be aded to the alfabet can be put into the boxes now occupied by them. It seems too bad to be obliged to retain these caracters and not put them to use except in such occasional frases as *casus belli*, *quo warranto*, *vox populi*, etc. If we could uze them for three of the sounds not now provided with letters several important benefits would be secured.

1. The number of new letters to be devised and agreed upon would be reduced by three.

2. The number of new boxes to be aded to the printer's case and the number of new sorts that he must buy for every font would be reduced likewise by three.

3. The number of the letters not occurring in uthr languages would be reduced. This would facilitate the spread of English among foreiners by lessening its outlandish apearance in their eyes.

There is one objection. After a person had lerned to read in the new spelling and then came to read old English books or to lern forein languages he would find these letters uzed with uthr values. We wil exam in this objection later.

If *c*, *q*, and *x* ar to be utilized they had better be uzed for consonant sounds than for vowels. The former would necessitate less departure from their use in the old spelling and in uthr languages, hense the one objection abuv stated would hav less weight. The six consonants needing separate letters ar *ch*, *sh*, *zh*, *dh*, *th*, and *ng*. The letter *c* could very wel be uzed for *ch*. In fact it may be regarded as having that use now, if we simply consider the *h* as a silent letter. This is the regular sound of *c* in Italian before *e* and *i*, and as we hav agreed to adopt the Italian vowel scale, why not take this one Italian consonant also? The best use of *x* would probably be to represent *zh*. In the present spelling it has the closely related sound of *z* when it begins a word, as *xanthin*, *zebec*, etc. The sound *zh* occurs in Russian and is represented by a letter which may be described as a monogram of *X* and *I*, all four

arms of the *X* being curved like the tail of *R*. There is no one of the four remaining sounds for which *q* is more appropriate than for any other, but as quite acceptable letters have been proposed for *dh*, *th*, and *ng*, we may assign *q* arbitrarily to *sh*. In considering the practicability of these suggestions regard should be paid not so much to the transition period as to the time after the new order of things is well established.

With respect to the use of *c* proposed above, Mr. Jerome B. Howard has said in discussing the question of "C versus K," "if *k* is adopted, *c* retains its sole office of combining with *h* to form the digraph *ch*. It is reasonable to suppose that, in such a case, the diacritic *h* might in time be dispensed with, and the pair of consonants heard in *chest*, *jest*, be expressed by the simple signs *c, j*."

The one objection noted above would have no greater weight than in the case of several other letters. The student brought up to the new spelling would, when he came to read books of a former generation, find his letter for *ch* standing sometimes for the sound of *k* or that of *s*, but he would also find *g* standing sometimes for *j*, *f* for *v*, *a* for *e*, or *o*, etc., all of which we contemplate untroubled.

Can the readers of OUR LANGUAGE bring forward any other objections?

ADVANTAGES OF THE FONETIC-PRINT METHOD.

STATEMENT.

1. Learning to read made easy and pleasant.
2. A good pronunciation acquired.
3. A good foundation laid for learning the pronunciation of foreign languages.

READING MADE EASY.

All the anomalies and confusions of English spelling are swept away at one stroke. There are no longer any irregular or difficult words, each sound being always represented by one and the same symbol. But in ordinary spelling *a* has eight different sounds, as in *favour*, *fat*, *father*, *fare*, *wall*, *watch*, *any*, *around*, and for the sound of *a* in *favour* we have the twenty-one different symbols:—*a-e*, *a*, *ai*, *ay*, *ah*, *ei*, *ey*, *ea*, *eh*, *ao*, *au*, *ag-e*, *aig*, *aigh*, *eig*, *eigh*, *aye*, *eye*, *eighe*, *ait*, *alf*; as in *fate*, *baker*, *pain*, *pay*, *dahlia*, *vein*, *they*, *great*, *eh*, *gaol*, *gauge*, *champagne*, *campaign*, *straight*, *feign*, *weigh*, *aye* (*ever*), *obeyed*, *weighed*, *trait*, *halfpenny*.

A GOOD PRONUNCIATION ACQUIRED.

The speech of English people, compared with that of other nations, sounds as if they were speaking through a blanket, so lazy are they in the use of their vocal organs, especially the lips, and so imperfect is their articulation. A clear and beautiful pronunciation of English, free alike from slovenliness and affectation, is indeed as rare as it is agreeable.

In Brown and Behnke's well-known manual, *Voice, Song, and Speech*, we read:

"Mr. H. C. Deacon, in a scholarly article on 'Singing' in Grove's *Dictionary of Music and Musicians* (Macmillan & Co.), expresses himself on this point as follows: 'No nation in the civilized world speaks its language so abominably as the English. The Scotch, Irish, and Welsh, in the matter of articulation, speak much better than we do. Familiar conversation is carried on in inarticulate smudges of sound which are allowed to pass current for something, as worn-out shillings are accepted as representatives of twelve pence. Not only are we, as a rule, inarticulate, but our tone-production is wretched; and when English people begin to study singing, they are astonished to find that they have never learned to speak. In singing there is scarcely a letter of our language that has not its special defect or defects among nearly all amateurs, and, sad to say, among some artists.'

This judgment, severe though it be, was endorsed by Dr. W. H. Stone in the course of his recent lectures on *Singing, Speaking, and Stammering*, at the Royal Institution, and few persons competent to form an opinion upon the subject will be inclined to differ from it."

Several methods of teaching to read do indeed profess to teach the sounds of English and their formation; but without a genuine fonetic method—that is, without the use of some definite symbol to represent each sound—the sound can not be properly learned. In our ordinary spelling there are many sounds which have no symbol specially allotted to them; e. g. we have no special symbol for the sound of *s* in *measure*, nor have we any symbol for distinguishing the two sounds of *th* in *Arthur* and *father*, or the two sounds of *u* in *bull* and *dull*; and the teacher who wants to secure really good articulation should not only have a definite symbol for teaching each sound, but should know how the various sounds are formed, and be able to classify them according to their

formation. That is, he should have some knowledge of fonetics.

PRONUNCIATION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES FACILITATED.

Both on the continent and in England, the best teachers of modern languages are now aware that the spoken language should be taught first, and the literary language, with the rules of grammar, should follow, and that in the first course of lessons in a foreign language, the greatest care should be taken to teach the pronunciation as perfectly as possible. Bad habits of pronunciation are so hard to eradicate.

Here, as in other subjects, the best method of teaching is to go from the known to the unknown. Let both teacher and scholar be well acquainted with the sounds of the English language, and they will have a key to the formation of new and foreign sounds, and soon learn to pronounce them; whilst those who have had no fonetic training, flounder hopelessly among the new sounds of French or German, and find all their book-learning of very little practical use the first time that they encounter a foreigner and try to express themselves in his language.

ONE APPARENT DRAWBACK.

The one apparent drawback is the difficulty of the transition to ordinary spelling. It appears at first sight that to learn two kinds of spelling is double trouble, and that it must produce some confusion in the children's minds. But all who have taught English on a fonetic method, either in England or abroad, testify that the result is troubleless and confusion cleared up. The transition is no difficulty at all, and the children not only read better, but spell better than others.

The quickest and surest way to teach children to sing at sight from the ordinary notation is to begin with a notation which is easier, namely the tonic sol-fa, and this is an exact parallel.

SUGGESTED AGE FOR BEGINNING TO READ, AND FOR TRANSITION.

Five years of age for beginning to read. Seven for the transition.

Average children will be found able to make the transition after a year's fonetic training, if they are five years old when they begin; but with a view to cultivating a good pronunciation, the course should extend over two years. No time is saved by beginning under five years of age.—*From the "Prospectus of Soames's Phonetic Method for Learning to Read."*

Spelling in the House of Commons.

—In a debate on an appropriation for the Civil Service Commission in the British House of Commons on the 9th Sept., 1893, Mr. Balfour declared in the course of his remarks that in the examination papers and the method of examination for the army too much weight was given to small and useless details. He had seen across men who would make excellent soldiers, who from some defect of eye, for it was a question of eye very much, had not acquired the strange art of spelling the English language. There was nothing more calculated to disgust pupils and to degrade the whole subject of examination than the habit of attaching undue importance to the arbitrary symbols of unusual words; and he hoped that, as far as the Government could exercise any influence in the matter, they would widen the scope of the examinations, in order to make them a better test of intellectual fitness and capacity.

Mr. T. G. Bowles expressed the opinion that spelling had in some quarters been erected into a fetish, and then passed to other considerations of the matter in hand.

The trifling value of correctness in the conventional spelling was referred to also in the speech of Mr. T. P. O'Connor, who remarked that some of the very ablest men in all classes, even in that of literature, had had an incurable capacity for spelling incorrectly. He had read that Thiers was hardly able to spell a word in his own language, and the greatest generals of their times were not able to spell. The Duke of Wellington was not very strong in his orthography to the end of his days.

Sum Friendly Counsel.—The latest addition to the exchange list of OUR LANGUAGE is *The Lancaster Argus*, issued monthly by patients in the insane asylum at St John, N. B., with Frank Jarvis as managing editor. It has been using full fonetic spelling in most of its matter, which caused a good many of its subscribers to object, and the editor has very wisely concluded to go back to the common spelling. The *Argus* can probably accomplish more by attempting less. A journal intended for general circulation can not use an advanced style of fonetic spelling at present without alienating many of its subscribers who care nothing for reform and thus losing its chance to influence them. The five

rules or the 24 rules of the Spelling Reform Association together with occasional articles in favor of the reform and perhaps a short sampl of full fonetic spelling now and then wil do much more good. The pronuncia-tion represented in its fonetic sampls should follow that in sum standard dictionary and not be governd solely by the habit of the editor, however wel educated he may be. The *Argus* has "uv, selekshen, t, frum, shaepd, alfabet" in sted of "ov, selekshun, tw, from, shaept, alfabet." It is not possibl to represent English fonetically with only ten vowels: good speakers wil not stand making "father" rime with "bother" nor spelling "full" and "fool" with the same vowel. Now and then a reformer has thought he coud dispens with *w* and *y*, but they generally acknowledge this to be an error in time.

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I am now to inform you that my Lords wil permit scolars presented in Standard I. to be examin'd in reading-books of fonetic notation. Scolars in standards abuv Standard I. must, both for reading and writing, uze books printed in the ordinary manner.

Yours faithfully,

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—Frends of OUR LANGUAGE ar requested not to send any subscriptions for the next year before the March number is issued. The editor wil make an anouncement in regard to his future spelling-reform work in that number.

BOUND VOLUMES OF OUR LANGUAGE.

With the next number, an index to volumes 1 to 3 of this jurnal and a title-page wil be issued. The editor beliefs that many of his subscribers wil wish to bind their numbers, for the 220 octavo pages that hav been issued in the past three years contain much matter of permanent value for reference. Nowhere els can there be found so full a statement of the arguments on both sides of the debatabl questions of spelling reform, such as Continental *versus* English vowel-scale, C *versus* K, the number of vowels and consonants in the reformd alfabet, etc. Nowhere els can there be found so much evidence as to the practical value of fonetic print in teaching children to read, and nowhere els is there

any adequate record of the progress of reform work and the growth of reform sentiment during the three years 1891-94.

The editor wil bind sets *sent to him before May 1*, in cloth, for 50 cents each, or wil mail cuvers for 25 cents each. Subscribers who did not begin with the first number can obtain the numbers issued before their subscriptions began for 5 cents apiece, twelv for 50 cents. Numbers lost or damaged wil be replaced for 3 cents each, and any injured from improper wrapping wil be replaced free. I shal also bind up a few sets which wil be offerd for sale at \$1.50 each. No charge for postage on cuvers or bound volumes. Those who send sets to me to be bound should hav them ready to mail immediately after the March number is receivd, for the sets must all go to the binder together in order to get the work done at the price named abuv.

PROF. KNUDSEN GONE.

The veteran spelling-reformer, Prof. Carl Wilhelm Knudsen, died at his home in South Norwalk, Conn., on the 26th Feb., after an illness of scarcely three days. He was born in Copenhagen, Denmark, 18th Jan., 1818, and was educated at the military College in that city, and at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts. He adopted the teaching of drawing as his profession. Leaving his nativ land when a young man he past several years in England and came to the United States about 1850. For nearly twenty years he followd his profession in New York City, and publisht there a system of drawing which met with much favor. There also he marriid Miss Mary Ruggles

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FEBRUARY, 1894.

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Miss Soames's Victory.—The following letter from the English Education Department is conclusive evidence of the success that has attended the teaching of children to read by means of Miss Soames's primers and readers in fonetic print.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT,
WHITEHALL, 9th November, 1893. }

DEAR MADAM:—I have received from Mr. Sharpe a report on his visit to the Albany School at Brighton, and have brought that report, and your letter of the 8th September, before the Vice-President.

I am now to inform you that my Lords will permit scholars presented in Standard I. to be examined in reading-books of fonetic notation. Scholars in standards above Standard I. must, both for reading and writing, use books printed in the ordinary manner.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) G. W. KEKEWICH.

MISS LAURA SOAMES.

Auntie—Do you find your lessons hard?

Little nephew—Sum of them is: but spelling and pronunciation is easy.

"They are?"

"Yes'm. All you have to do is to pronounce words the way they isn't spelled, and spell 'em sum way they isn't pronounced."

FOREIN NEWS.

—Mr. Thomas Lang, East Melbourne (formerly Kilmarnock), writes: My friends Mr. and Mrs. Dabney are so prepossessed in favor of the fonetic mode of teaching to read, having often heard my wife and I relate how our own children were taught to read so easily and so effectually by this method, that they have resolved to educate their children in the same manner.—*The Phonetic Journal*.

—Mr. John Macarthur, of Scotland, who contributed a letter to OUR LANGUAGE for October, died after a brief illness on the 27th December, in his 71st year. He was one of the original members of the Educational Institute of Scotland, was made a Fellow in 1868, and had filled the office of president. He took an active interest in spelling reform, and was convener of a permanent committee of the Institute to agitate for a reformed orthography.

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Green, formerly of Worcester, Mass., who survives him. In 1869 he retired from professional life and made his home in South Norwalk. He quickly became known as a public spirited citizen, redy to aid every educational and benevolent enterprise. Being energetic in action, of sound judgment, and possest of competent means he was able to do much good. He had a finely equipt astronomical observatory and luvd to stimulate an interest in science among yung peopl. Two years ago he opend a lecture-hall for non-sectarian religious teaching in English and German and and for varius secular studis. He was deeply interested in the reform of English spelling and publisht much in advocacy of it. He constructed the "Demotic" fonetic alfabet in accordance with the replies to a serie of questions which he obtaind from ninety correspondents. The most notabl feature of this alfabet is its use of the "longus"—a vertical mark placed after a vowel to indicate length. This character stands by itself and hense reduces the number of types required for a complete fonetic alfabet by five (or seven). The alfabet is described in a pamphlet entitled: "A Plea for the English Demotic Alphabet," issued by Prof. Knudsen in 1881. He publisht thru Funk & Wagnalls (1882) "The Gospel of Mark," and a "Pronouncing Dictionary" (1886), both in Demotic print. He was also ever redy to aid the efforts of others in behalf of spelling-reform. He was one of the earliest and most generus supporters of this jurnal and when he last called upon the editor said, "If you want more help, let me know." The leading newspaper of his city says of him, "He seemed to be possest and controlld by a spirit of goodness. He sought only the good of mankind, and no one could be more liberal in means or time to carry out this purpose. His life has been a benefaction."

The Digraf Alfabet—Mr. J. A. Stuart writes, comending sum of the vowel digrafs proposed by the editor in December, and criticizing uthers because they ar not fonetic. Of course digrafs uzed for simpl vowels wil not be fonetic—no more than the familiar *ch*, *th*, *sh*, and *ng* ar fonetic. Like these latter they ar make-shifts, and a "digraf alfabet" is only to be thought of as a "half loaf" which is "better than no bred." I am not disposed to defend the details of my suggestion.

"I for my part," says Mr. N. J. Werner. "am thoroely convinced that there need be no intermediate steps between the '24 rules' and a fonetic alfabet, such, for instance, as the 'Scientific Alphabet.'" Let us hope so. But the "Scientific Alphabet" (of the S. R. A.) needs sum amendment before it can be calld a purely "fonetic alfabet" as it employs six digrafs for consonants.

Another digraf alfabet is submitted by Mr. A. B. Lennox, differing from mine by the use of *h* as a lengthener for five vowels, and representing the vowels in "care," "orb," "burn," and "full" respectively by *ae*, *au*, *ue*, and *ui*, while the four diphthongs ar represented by *ai*, *ou*, *oi*, and *eu*. In writing Mr. Lennox would uze the "long s" in place of the lengthening *h*. By utilizing *c*, *g*, and *x*, however, his scheme departs from my definition of a digraf alfabet, which is, one in which each sound is represented either as at present or by a digraf.

It is enuf at present to hav broacht and graspt the idea of such an intermediate alfabet. We can sett the details of the scheme when a demand for it arises. Our final goal deserves more of our attention.

FOREIN NEWS.

—The *Revue Scientifique* for the 27th January contains a letter of nearly nine pages by M. H. de Lacaze-Duthiers criticizing the stand taken by the editor, M. Charles Richet, in favor of reformd spelling for the French language. M. Richet replies in defense of his position, which concerns especially the disuse of *y* as a vowel and the replacement of *ph* by *f*. Both men ar members of the Institute of France.

—The occurrence recorded in OUR LANGUAGE for January under the title "Spelling in the House of Commons" and the step recently taken by the French Academy wer referd to in *The School Guardian* (London) sum time sinse with the result of starting a lively discussion upon the "Vices of English Spelling" in the columns of that jurnal. The correspondence began in the issue for 7th Oct., 1893 and was stil continued in that for 27th Jan., 1894—the latest at hand. Five writers had advocated more or less simplified spelling while only two had apeard as opponents of any change. Truly the leven is working in conservativ England and perhaps not less actively than in disad America.

THE VOWEL SONG.

It is in the kindergarten that the ear of every child should be trained to distinguish, and the organs of speech to produce the separate sounds which compose words used by the child. This drill should be practiced for a year or more before the alphabet or any reading is taught. The following verses are a specimen of simple fonetic teaching. They can be sung to a well known kindergarten tune:

Hear the vowels e, a, ä,
As they sound in *me, may, ma*,
And the vowels aw, o, oo,
As they sound in *taw, toe, two*,

Little baby cow says, *ma-a-a*,
And it makes the vowel ä.
But the lambs and sheep say, *bah*,
And we hear the vowel ä.

I and oi and ow and ew,
They are vowel noises too;
When I ask for apple *pie*
Then I use the vowel i.

My dog Towser says *bow-wow*
And he makes the vowel ow;
So does Pussy; hear her now,
As she cries, *mi-ow, mi-ow*.

When mamma says "darling boy,"
Then I hear the vowel oi;
When I ask for "just a few,"
Then you hear the vowel ew.

One more vowel, tha is ü,
Hear it in my pussy's *purr*.
These are all the vowels long.
And so ends my vowel song.

ELIZA B. BURNZ.

Utilizing C, Q, and X.—Two correspondents have treated this subject helpfully. Their letters follow:

I agree with your view as to *c*, which I think ought to get the power of *ch* in course of time.

Q I would fire to the topmost row of the printer's cap. case to be used as occasion might require in foreign words. It will never do for *sh*. Besides, it is a "descending" letter of which I gave my opinion in the *Artist Printer*.

X I would put in some out-of-the-way corner in the case to be used only in words like "loch" (Scotch), "och" (Irish), "mich" (German)="lox," "ox," "mix." The *x* is a descendant from the Greek *X* (*chi*, the aspirated *k*). It was used in early Latin with the same power—the sound *ks* being at times denoted by *xs*, analogous

to the German usage of *chs*, as in "Dachshund" (daks-hund), "Deichsel" (daiksel), "Buchse" (bukse), etc. *X* is used by the inter-lingual fonetic journal, *Le Maître Phonétique*, of Paris, with this same power of *ch* in the German word "noch." I believe the choice a wise one, and as our fonetic schemes ought to work in line with the idea of a universal fonetic alphabet, why not accept it to express its value in the alphabet it came from, the Greek? That Russian monogram is too far out of the way to ally *x* with it. N. J. WERNER.

I think it a good plan to let *c* and *x* stand for *ch* and *zh* respectively, as suggested in January O. L. As to *q*, however, I do not agree that it should represent *sh*, but think it should be used for *ng*.

1. Because *q* has a resemblance to the *g* in *ng*.

2. Because *q*, being taken from its usual position (at the beginning of words) and placed at the end, mistakes as to the sound intended to be represented would be very few.

3. Because *ng* being a comparatively frequent sound, and *q* in script being an easy letter to form, the conditions of convenience and brevity in both script and print would be perfectly met.

4. Because *Q* being not the best letter for a script capital, and *ng* never being initial, while *sh* begins many words, another benefit to chirography would be secured.

5. Because *ng* being so much more frequent than *sh* should have the first chance at what is left of the old letters.

A. B. LENNOX.

—Mr. E. A. Fuller, West Salem, Ill., is studying fonetic alphabets and would be glad to receive copies of any that their authors may be inclined to send him.

—Miss Soames's "Albany Phonetic Readers" can now be obtained from Macmillan & Co., 66 Fifth Ave., New York. Nos. 1 and 2 at 10 cents each, No. 3 at 20 cents.

—The editor is glad to receive letters and papers relating to spelling-reform but thinks he should be spared unnecessary expense for unpaid postage. Every one who uses the mails much must be aware that printed matter in a sealed envelope is charged at letter rate, and if from abroad any deficiency is charged double. On a package recently received 38 cents was due.

Spelling Reform in the U. S. Senate.

—On the 19th Feb., Mr. W. E. Chandler, of New Hampshire, introduced into the Senate a Joint Resolution in behalf of simplified spelling, and it was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor. Its objects are stated to be: "To encourage better spelling of the English language, to make easier, more logical, and more rapid the work of pupils in learning to read, and to reduce the cost of printing and writing." It proceeds to recite the disadvantages of the common spelling, the action of the Philological societies, and the fact that more than 3,000 words "are found as spelled by these rules in the Century Dictionary." The resolution follows, which is, "That the Public Printer, in the printing of all books and of all matter whatsoever that he may be required to print for the Government, begun after the passage of these resolutions, shall spell the words he prints, in accordance with the 24 joint rules of the Philologic Society of England and American Philologic Association, known as the Joint Rules for Amended Spelling, to wit: (the rules follow). The paragraphs quoted are taken from *The Jurnal ov Orthoepe and Orthograft*, which prints the full text of the document. Its number is S. R. 65. From *The Leader* I learn that Representative Curtis, of Kansas, has introduced a similar resolution into the house.

Spelling-reform does not seem to lack friends in Congress who are willing to bring it to the attention of that body. While an Act of Congress is not the most powerful means for effecting the reform, it is one of the stones that should not be left unturned, and reformers who can spare the necessary time will do well to circulate petitions in favor of the above resolution.

—Dr. Wm. M. Baird, of New York, uses the "Joint Rules" in the circular that accompanies each box of "Nerve-Liver Tablets," which he manufactures, also on the wrapper of the box.

—*Intelligence* comments upon the fact that, in the "Report of the Committee on Secondary School Studies" recently published by the Bureau of Education, President Adams, of Michigan University, in the part written by him uses the spelling "program," while President Eliot, of Harvard, commonly looks upon "as the embodiment of progressiv, fearless, sound, educational sense," in summarizing the reports of the

Conferences, adheres to the obsolescent form "programme." "We can't help but feel," says *Intelligence*, "a little ashamed of a man, especially a scholar of eminence and authority, who, in spite of the manifest tendency of the time toward the adoption of the form "program" and in spite of its being fully authorized, will allow himself thus to appear in the line of opposition to a reform which is so desirable, and which his example could so greatly help."

—Mr. Frederick H. Fowler clerk of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, has discovered, in indexing its reports, one made by Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes in 1849, as Chairman of the committee on a ploughing match at the Berkshire Society's annual fair. It begins: "The plough is a very ancient instrument. It is written in the English language, p-l-o-u-g-h, and by the association of free and independent spellers, p-l-o-w. It may be remarked that the same gentlemen can, by a singular process, turn their coughs into cows, which would be the cheapest mode of raising live stock; but it is to be feared that they (referring to the cows) would prove but low-bred animals."—*Exchange*.

—The aid of phonetics is employed by a restaurant keeper near the Grand Central depot, New York, who has a sign offering "Coffee az iz Coffee."

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No. 12.

"OUR LANGUAGE" GIVS WAY TO "SPELLING."

With this number the publication of OUR LANGUAGE ceases. The want which this jurnal was created to fil no longer exists. In April, 1891, when OUR LANGUAGE was started, the spelling reformers of America seemd to be in need of an organ. The Spelling Reform Association had publisht nothing in three years, nor was there a jurnal issued from any uthor source that gave the current events of the movement, domestic and forein, with fulness and regularity, and servd as a general medium of communication. Being fortunately situated for the work, I undertook to furnish such a jurnal, and proposed to the officers of the Spelling Reform Association that they should make use of it for oficial communications to their members (O. L. 1: 34, 36). This proposition was declined: but after two years had past I was invited to becum what might be calld the "managing editor" of *Spelling*, the quarterly magazine of the Association. To this end I was made Corresponding Secretary of the Spelling Reform Association and added to its Publication Committee. Altho seeing that this involvd the abandonment of my own enterprise, I accepted the task. Sum of the warm friends of OUR LANGUAGE may regret its suspension, but I think they will be convinced by the following reasons that I hav made the right decision. In the first place, I do not hav leisure enuf to edit two periodicals, and of the two I feel that I can do more for the reform thru the organ of a society than thru a private jurnal. Moreover, I can do this more important work

with less expense to me in both time and mune. Altho OUR LANGUAGE has had a few very generus suporters, its expenses for the three years hav exceeded its receipts by about \$400, and on the present basis about \$60 a year would be added to this loss. Then, too, if the Spelling Reform Association is willing to make adequate arrangements for issuing a periodical, no loyal member should carry on what might seem to be a rival jurnal. Beside this I am unwilling to ask those who contribute to the support of *Spelling* by their dues to the S. R. A. to carry a dubl burden by subscribing to OUR LANGUAGE also.

My harty thanks ar tenderd to those who hav cooperated with me in carrying on this jurnal for the past three years. Our joint work has kept a visibl flame alive on the altar of spelling-reform where uthewise would hav been only smoldering embers. And it by no means ends in failure. OUR LANGUAGE does not die, it becums merged in *Spelling*, and the momentum that it has gaind wil be imparted to that jurnal.

Binding Our Language.—Subscribers ar reminded of the arrangements for binding their sets of OUR LANGUAGE givn in the February number. As this issue has been unavoidably delayd, the time for receiving orders at the price there givn, 50 cents, is extended to May 21. The price of covers alone is 25 cents, and of complete bound sets is \$1.50.

Exchanges.—All exchanges of OUR LANGUAGE that giv space to fonetics ar invited to exchange with *Spelling*.

How to get a Reform Jurnal.—Now that the regular visits of OUR LANGUAGE are to cease, its readers will want something to take its place. Those who are members of the Spelling Reform Association will receive *Spelling* quarterly. Those who are not members I would earnestly urge to join it. Members are entitled to the publications of the Association free, so that in this way you will obtain a magazine that will keep you posted on the progress of the reform, and tell you how you can do the most effective work for the movement. In this way, also you will ally yourself with the only active organization for general spelling-reform work in any English-speaking country, and make your influence count four times as much as when exerted alone. The Spelling Reform Association has been charged with fonetic bigotry, and I know that sum of you deem the charge well founded. But do not let this feeling prevent your becoming members of the organization. Make yourself thoroughly acquainted with the course it is pursuing, and then, if it really proves to be heading in the wrong direction, lend a hand to set it right. The S. R. A. is too good a ship to be abandoned for any unreal or unimportant defect. The dues of the S. R. Association are \$1.00 a year; no initiation fee. Life membership \$25.00. Payments should be made to the Treasurer, Mr. Charles E. Sprague, 1271 Broadway, New York, but any enclosed in letters to me will be promptly handed to him. The Association invites "Everyone who favors the improvement of English spelling, in any way, or to any extent," to join.

Unexpired Subscriptions.—Most of the subscriptions to OUR LANGUAGE end with the volume, but some extend a few months beyond, and a few subscribers have sent money for Volume four and even five. The following is a list of the unexpired subscriptions, and I make this proposition: to those persons having a number of *months* against their names I will send as many back numbers of OUR LANGUAGE for the months preceding the beginning of their subscriptions; to those having a sum of *money* against their names I will return the money on May 21st. To save the persons concerned the trouble of writing, I will *take* silence for consent to this proposal, *but if any prefer a different mode of settlement I shall be glad to hear from them.*

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* Numbers sent. † Instructions received.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS FOR THE S. R. A. ALFABET.

Many reformers have given themselves over to the fascinations of alphabet-making to such an extent that they have had no time or money for more pressing work, and by their obstinacy in refusing to make mutual concessions have actually retarded the work they imagined they were promoting. I have been criticized for publishing a variety of fonetic schemes in OUR LANGUAGE, but I believe that my policy as a whole has tended toward reducing divergences, and blocking out the broad principles upon which the finally accepted alphabet must be based. I have an idea for still further reducing these divergences or rather for reducing the apparent wideness of them to its real limits. The most authoritative fonetic alphabet in existence is that of the Spelling Reform Association. Nearly all others are identical with it to the extent of from two-thirds to seven-eighths of their letters. There is no need of setting these forth as separate alphabets. All purposes, save the personal glory of their inventors, could be better served by proposing their peculiar features as amendments to the Spelling Reform Association alphabet. I have been rather chary of expressing my personal opinion as to a fonetic alphabet in OUR LANGUAGE, but I can not let the last number go from my hands without indulging myself in a series of such amendments.

The members of the Philological Association's committee that made the S. R. A. alphabet frankly admitted that it had imperfections, which they hoped would be removed in time. Now that seventeen years have past it does not seem too soon to make an effort to remove them.

The committee decided to recognize sixteen vowels in the reformed alphabet, eight short and eight long. So symmetrical a list

could hardly be obtained without sum pruning or stretching. A language is a growth, like a tree, and no tree ever takes a rectangular shape naturally. Recent discussion in OUR LANGUAGE has shown that the weight of argument is against separate representation for two of the short vowels—*a* in “ask” and *o* in “obey.” The spelling of dictionaries and school-books being always excepted.

Another decision was for “the use of a single sign for a short vowel and its long, distinguishing them, when great exactness is required, by a diacritical mark.” No language under the sun is so precise in its spelling as to have separate letters for long and short vowels. It is wholly unnecessary in English, and utterly impracticable. By the Spelling Reform Association scheme only eight letters are required for the vowels. We have five already and need only three new ones. Assigning the five old letters to the Continental vowels, the committee devised new forms for the vowels in “arm,” “odd,” and “up.” For the first, a letter was made by depriving our Italic *a* of its slant (*α*); for the second by dropping a breve into the letter “o” (*ο*); for the third by slight changes in the ticks of “u” (*υ*). Later the filologists found that their ideal assignment of the old letters to the Continental vowels was not quite practicable, and an exception was made. The vowel in “am” occurs in English so many times oftener than the one in “ask,” “arm,” that the great body of English speaking people never would give up the old letter for it, merely to gratify a filologic ideal. So the functions of “a” and “α” were quietly exchanged.

Here I would propose two amendments. Following the committee's own precedent, I would reassign the old “o” to the vowel in “odd,” and the old “u” to that in “up.” I would not, however, give the new letters of the committee to the vowels in “old,” and “pull.” I would provide others by a procedure more filological than that of the filologists themselves. When a new word is wanted in our language it is borrowed from some other speech; when we want a new letter what is more natural than to obtain it in the same way? There lies before me the second number of a paper entitled *Atlantis*, which is printed in New York, in a language that has two o's—the Greek. There are in Greek “o small” and “o great”—

o-micron and *o-mega*—“o” and “ω.” Fifty years ago Eliza Pitman and his associates took the Greek omega, deprived it of its slant and closed it at the top, thus producing a letter which may best represent long o (*ω*). They also took the contraction for the Greek *ou* formed by writing the *υ* over the *ο*, and modified it so as to produce “*ϝ*.” This letter is actually used in a modern alphabet—the Wallachian—which is a direct offshoot from the Greek. For clearness, pleasing form, natural derivation, and scholarly associations these two letters have never been surpassed. The “α” of the Spelling Reform Association is a good letter, both intrinsically and historically, for it is a clear shape and resembles the Greek “α.” But the new *ο* (*ο*) and *υ* (*υ*) of the Association should be discarded, as they are hard to distinguish from the old letters and have no historical value.

One of the deficiencies of its alphabet was acknowledged by the A. P. A. committee in these words: “For the consonants now represented by digraphs, new letters would be desirable, but no particular forms are now recommended. The following are mentioned:” Then follow two sets of forms for *dh*, *th*, *sh*, *ch*, *zh*, and *ng*. One of these sets is drawn from Mr. Pitman's alphabet, and the other, since named the “national,” consists of letters borrowed from other languages, as I have recommended above. The committee was unable to agree upon either set in 1877, but I believe that it would now readily decide in favor of some at least of the “national” letters. Those for *th* and *dh* are the Runic letters *þ* and *ð* used in Anglo-Saxon—the mother of the English language. They are a part of our linguistic heritage that has been lost and ought to be recovered. Moreover, they are used also in a language of to-day—the Icelandic. A specimen of Icelandic print, in the form of a journal, *Samningin*, published by settlers in Manitoba, lies upon my table. It is an impressive witness to the value and vitality of these two letters. The Greek language has one letter, theta (*θ*), that might take the place of one of these, but it has a foreign look among our old letters. Single letters for *ch*, *sh*, and *zh*, are found in certain Slavic languages, but they are not so well worth borrowing. In Bohemian, *c*, *s*, and *z* with an inverted circumflex accent are used, while the letters in Russian have the general form of *ч*, *ш*, and *х*. Against

the Bohemian characters lie the usual objections to markt letters, while the uncouth form of the Russian characters would probably prevent their adoption. My proposal for these three sounds is to utilize *c*, *q*, and *x* for them. For the arguments in support of this idea, see *OUR LANGUAGE* for January. There remains only the sound *ng*, for which there is no "national" letter, Mr. Pitman's form (*ŋ*), however, has won the practically unanimous assent of spelling-reformers and ought to be included in the final scheme of the Spelling Reform Association. Three of my correspondents—Dr. A. Hamilton, Dr. J. E. Parsons, and Mr. E. A. Phipson—hav incidentally exprest their aproval of the Anglo-Saxon letters, while Mr. J. A. Stuart aproves of borrowing not only omega, but several uther letters also, from the Greek alfabet. Mr. Jerome B. Howard has independently suggested utilizing *c* and Mr. W. Wilcox, both *c* and *x*. I believe many more members of the Spelling Reform Association hold similar views. In the respelling of the greatest dictionary of the English language, that edited by Dr. Murray, the two Anglo-Saxon letters and Pitman's *ŋ* ar uzed. For *sh* and *zh* two uther of Pitman's letters ar employd, while *ch* is writn as a compound sound.

The vowels of the S. R. A. alfabet with my amendments would stand thus:

Short, a e i o u y

Long, ā ē ī ō ū ŷ

the six digraf consonants would hav these singl letters:

c, q, x, p, d, ŋ

and I would represent the *k*-sound by *k* *exclusively*. The last long vowel should hav a diacritic, but I hav not the type for it. What makes the use of diacritics for the long vowels practicabl is the fact that for all common purposes—in all correspondence, business accounts, and in newspapers, and popular books—the unmarkt letters can be uzed for both short and long sounds, except where the length of the vowel is the only difference between two words, as "bitten" and "beaten." There is sumthing to be said as to choice of diacritics. During the transition period, the macron would be a source of confusion which might be avoided by the substitution of an accent—say the circumflex. This is uzed in the sampl paragraf below. Sum of the vowels thus markt hav different

values here from what they had in the Reference Table formerly printed in this jurnal.

The following paragraf is a sampl of spelling acording to the Spelling Reform Association alfabet, as I would like to see it completed. Long vowels ar not distinguisht from short, hense this is a specimen of what might be calld

NEWSPAPER PRINT.

Bai a fonetik alfabet a caild me bi tōt ði art ov ridig—not flæntli, but wel—bop in fonetik and in ordineri bsks, in pri munps, ai, oftn in twenti æsrs ov puro instrukun—a task hwic iz rarli akompliqht in pri yirz ov toil bai ði old alfabet. Hwot faður or ticur wil not gladli hêl and urnestli wurk for ðis gret bsn tæ edyskequn—so efektiv for ði difisxun ov nolej? Ol ð sæxndz in Inglish ar kontênd in ðis paragraf.

—Those who ar willing to take part in a popular language inquiry should send to Prof. Geo. Hempl, 67 Washtenaw Avenue Ann Arbor, Mich., for his set of questions

—The publishers of Webster's Dictionary hav prepared pages containing the list of words whose spelling is amended by the Joint Rules of the filological societies which wil be added to the appendix of that work.

—N. J. Werner, No. 100 South Fourth Street, St. Louis, Mo., is interested in fonetics and fonetic alfabet, and wil be a thankful recipient of any alfabetic schemes whose originators may be pleasd to send them to him.

—An "Autobiographic Sketch of Henry M. Parkhurst," with a portrait, appears in *The Phonographic Magazine* for 1st of April, 1894, and there was a sketch and portrait of Dr. Asa Horr in *The Jurnal or Orthoepe and Orthograft* for February. Both men ar veteran spelling-reformers.

Inglish az She iz Spelt.

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